



**National Statement, delivered by Mr. Afaq Ahmad, Counsellor during the 3rdUPR
Review of Antigua and Barbuda**

39th UPR Session

08 November 2021

Madam President,

We welcome the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda to its 3rd Universal Periodic Review and thank them for presenting an overview of the report.

Taking note of severe socio-economic impacts of COVID pandemic and environmental challenges including frequent hurricanes, we commend the efforts of the people and government to recover from the pandemic effects and pursue socio-economic development.

We acknowledge efforts aimed at ensuring social protection for vulnerable communities, alleviating poverty and promoting enjoyment of women and girls' rights. Unveiling Child Protection Policy this year for child protection, reforming juvenile justice system, and promoting their access to education is a noteworthy development and we look-forward to its successful implementation.

We recommend Antigua and Barbuda to:

- a) Continue with efforts and seek international assistance in mitigating the adverse impacts of COVID pandemic.
- b) Sustain efforts to alleviate poverty and strengthen social protection system.

I thank you.