

Maldives

H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam, Permanent Representative of Maldives to UNOG.

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of the Maldives, I would like to welcome the delegation of Kiribati for travelling to Geneva on 3 May 2010, and for its insightful and honest presentation. We acknowledge that meeting this deadline was a massive effort by Kiribati, given the small size of its public service and capacity constraints. We also congratulate the delegation on its effective participation in the UPR process. The Maldives welcomes the UPR outcome.

Kiribati, like the Maldives, is a Small Island Developing State; and as such we share many common characteristics and many common challenges, especially the impacts of climate change and severe capacity constraints.

The Maldives and Kiribati are among the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. Indeed, we are both founder members of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the Maldives had the honour to welcome the President of Kiribati, H.E. President Tong, to the Maldives last year for an important meeting of climate vulnerable States ahead of COP15 in Copenhagen.

As resolutions 7/23 and 10/4 adopted by this Council clearly stated, climate change has a range of implications, both direct and indirect, for the full enjoyment of human rights. The countries in this room, especially the major industrialised nations, therefore have a responsibility to desist from actions that will knowingly undermine human rights in Kiribati, i.e. they must take meaningful mitigation actions to bring their greenhouse gas emissions down to safe-levels. Developed nations also have a human rights obligation to help Kiribati adapt to those impacts of global warming which are now inevitable.

Kiribati also faces severe capacity constraints. Thus, as we look to adopt the UPR outcome, it is imperative that the international community assist Kiribati to implement the human rights recommendations contained in the UPR report. Only with such support will Kiribati be able to strive to fully promote and protect the enjoyment of human rights.

The Maldives wishes Kiribati every success in implementing the recommendations contained in the UPR outcome.

Thank you Mr. President.