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Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives  
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**Statement to be delivered by Mr. Muruthala Moosa,  
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Office in  
Geneva on Agenda Item 9:**

**ID with SR on racism**

**At the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**10 June 2013 15:00 – 18:00**

Thank you Madam President,

The Maldives delegation would like to thank Special Rapporteur for his reports. We welcome the sharing of best practices summarized by the Special Rapporteur on countering extremist political parties, movements and groups. We also agree that education has great potential in promoting tolerance and respect for diversity within societies.

Madam President,

Our Constitution upholds the principle of non-discrimination and prohibits acts of discrimination based on any notion. To further strengthen this basic human right, a bill on anti discrimination is currently at the drafting stage and is expected to be completed before the end of 2013.

With the recent drastic increase in the number of migrant workers residing in the country, the Maldives recognized the need to fill the legislative gaps in providing for non-discrimination and equality of all within its jurisdiction. The Maldives became a member of the International Labor Organization in 2009 and in February 2013, the Maldives also ratified one of the core ILO convention on discrimination in respect of employment and occupation which prohibits all forms of discrimination on any basis including race, color, sex religion or political opinion

national or social origin. We hope that these steps will positively contribute to the elimination of discrimination in the workplace and against migrant workers.

Madam President,

In regards to the second report focusing on the role of education, the Maldives strongly support the recommendation that equality and non-discrimination need to be upheld in accessing education and training.

Lastly, we would like to join the Special Rapporteur on stressing the importance of cooperation with relevant international human rights mechanism in combating racism. We will continue to play an active role in preventing racism through further cooperation with international mechanism.

I thank you.

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