



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

**Statement at the Interactive Dialogue with the
Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers**

**23rd Session of Human Rights Council by
H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives**

Geneva, 28 May 2013

Mr President,

The Maldives would like to extend its appreciation to the Special Rapporteur Ms. Gabriella Knaul for her presentation today, and for her report to the Council. We fully take note and appreciate that legal aid, as an important element in the administration of justice, forms a valuable thematic focus for the report. We also appreciate her engagement with Member States, and in this regard the Government of Maldives was pleased to host the Special Rapporteur in the country in February this year as part of an on-going engagement between the Government and the Human Rights Council special procedures. We believe this visit was an important follow-up to the visit conducted by the Special Rapporteur in 2007.

Mr President,

The Government of Maldives welcomes the Report by the Special Rapporteur on her mission to the Maldives, and the recommendations contained herein. We fully acknowledge that the various challenges she has identified and raised in her report are in fact the residue challenges present in a system in the midst of democratic consolidation. The Maldives judicial system continues to be hampered by structural deficiencies and resource constraints in addressing the difficult challenges facing the country in general. We also recognize that the on-going reform of the system would consume time resources and sustained attention to implementation and the Government remains fully committed to this endeavour.

The Report of the Special Rapporteur, and that of her predecessor are important inputs for the Maldives at this crucial juncture. The Government looks forward to extensive collaboration and cooperation with the Special Rapporteur and the United Nations system to acclimatize and implement the recommendations. However, we would also like to take this opportunity to mention that the Government requires the assistance and technical expertise from OHCHR and also continued engagement from the Special Rapporteur herself, to realize the implementation of these recommendations.

Mr President,

In conclusion, the Government of Maldives very much appreciates the constructive nature of the dialogue, and for the establishment of a strong and productive partnership between the Government and the Special Rapporteur. We wish to highlight though, engagement between national governments and international actors should not undermine national jurisdiction and the court system of any country especially relating to on-going cases. In this regard, my delegation wishes to discuss specific matters contained in the report with the Rapporteur. Notwithstanding, the Maldives is firmly committed to this dialogue and engagement in a constructive manner, with the ultimate aim and objective of further strengthening the judicial system and to address the challenges.

Thank you Mr. President.
