



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

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Geneva, 9 – 27 September 2013

Annual day Discussion on Integration of a Gender Perspective
Panel on “Civil Society’s contribution to the integration of a gender perspective
in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms”
12 September 2013

Statement by Ms. Rishfa Rasheed,
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Offices in
Geneva

Check Against Delivery

Thank you, Mr. President

The Maldives delegation would like to express its appreciation to all the panellists for the informative dialogue, and would like to commend the important role played by the Civil Society in strengthening the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, especially by integrating a gender perspective to its work.

Last Saturday, Maldives had completed the first round of polling for the Presidential Elections. For the first time, we had seen a very constructive and active engagement by the civil society of the country, in ensuring a smooth, transparent and peaceful process. It is encouraging to know that the role of the civil society actors have strengthened during the past few years. I am particularly pleased to note that a large proportion of these actors are women.

Mr. President,

Since the inception of this Council, the Civil Society actors have played a key role in bringing issues of importance forward, and providing an information base to the membership, which has been positively accepted by many delegations. Civil Society actors often have access to grass-root members and open and free dialogue, without fear of reprisals for cooperation. I would also like to value the work of these civil society actors, who face their own reprisals on several occasions. Due to the nature of

work that they do, they are often the only voice to the powerless and helpless within a society. Gender inequality still exists, causing women and girls to be vulnerable, sometimes violated from many human rights such as education, and freedom of speech. Hence, it is only fitting that the civil society is the major partner in gender integration into a society. In order to mainstream human rights and gender equality at national, regional and international level, the role the civil society has played and continues to play, needs to be integrated deeper into the work of this Council.

Mr. President,

Maldives considers the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to be one of the best and most important mechanisms put in place to monitor the human rights situations in states. We appreciate the role the civil society plays in contributing to the UPR, especially in providing advance reports and contributing to the stakeholder information. Since discrimination against women and gender equality often is a major issue discussed at UPR, we would like to ask the panellists to provide some insight into the challenges civil society faces in the different steps of UPR, and how they see their role in the UPR process moving forward.

To conclude, let me state that the Government of Maldives believes in the promotion of gender equality and mainstreaming, and integration of gender into all aspects of life is crucial for the development of individuals and societies as a whole. Maldives remains committed to work with all actors, key and majority of which is the civil society, to ensure gender integration and equality.

Thank you Mr. President
