



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

**Statement at the General Debate of the Universal Period Review, Item 6
24th Session of Human Rights Council by
Mr. Javed Faizal, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations Offices in
Geneva**

Geneva, 20 September 2013

Check Against Delivery

Mr President,

The Universal Periodic Review is a unique peer-review mechanism that has directly contributed to the efforts of States, to promote and uphold their human rights obligations. It also provides a cooperative framework for States that is objective, transparent and constructive to exchange views and interact on human rights issues. We fully support and reaffirm the Human Rights Council resolution that established the Universal Period Review and expresses its hope that the on-going second cycle would provide valuable insights that would improve and strengthen the mechanism further.

In this regard, my delegation wishes to highlight three major issues of importance to us;

- 1) The issue of 'non-cooperation' we believe is detrimental to the methodology and the credibility of the entire mechanism, and could have the potential to set a dangerous precedent, hence, adequate steps must be taken to encourage states to participate. We also believe there must be appropriate measures to enable the Council to move forward with the review, if states decide not to cooperate.
- 2) We remain concerned about the precedents set in the format of the Working Group report, which must be a factual summary of the proceedings, with all recommendations contained in the main body. We are also concerned about the regularly recurrence of bilateral issues of a territorial nature, which damages the credibility of the process, especially the interactive dialogue. It is not up to the Human Rights Council or the UPR mechanism to interpret, translate or comment on such issues and we urge all States to refrain from bringing up such issues during the review. Furthermore, we would like to

share with you our experiences, and would recommend to avoid using of asterisks and footnotes in working group reports.

- 3) The Council needs to make the UPR Trust Fund on participation more accessible for delegations, such as SIDS and LDCs. In this regard, we welcome the first seminar organized by the OHCHR, with Mauritius this year on the participation of SIDS and LDCs in the Council and its UPR. More outreach needs to be conducted, in order to ensure that delegations interested in participating, but might not have the means to do so, are able to engage. Therefore, we believe the Trust Fund to be an important tool in encouraging States to interact and participate constructively with the mechanism.

Mr President,

As we move through the second cycle of the UPR mechanism, there are important lessons learnt that must be understood and incorporated into future reviews. While we do understand that the UPR mechanism has evolved, and continue to evolve, the Human Rights Council has a responsibility to ensure that the progress achieved thus far is to the benefit of States, and other stakeholders.

A robust and thorough review of existing practices and guidelines are a necessity, one that this Council needs to deliberate. We believe such calibrations could go a long way in maintaining the credibility and objectivity of the UPR mechanism in the future.

Let me conclude by saying that my delegation fully supports the clarifications provided by the President of the Council in his letter of 18 September.

Thank you, Mr President.
