



Statement by

The Republic of Maldives

at the

Third Session

of the

Universal Periodic Review Working Group

under

Consideration of the UPR Report of the United Arab Emirates

4th December 2008



Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the high level delegation from the United Arab Emirates and commends the consultative, transparent and inclusive approach adopted by the United Arab Emirates in preparing its national report. The Maldives was particularly impressed by innovative steps such as field visits and the construction of a UPR website, designed to make the national consultation process as inclusive as possible.

Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the political modernization process announced in 2005 and the clear timetable attached to it. The process lays down a clear vision for democracy in the country; a democracy founded upon the promotion and protection of human rights. The Maldives also welcomes the UAE's considerable efforts to improve the status of women, in line with its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. Dedication to the rights of the child is also evident in the exceptional strides taken by the UAE in primary and secondary education, healthcare, and childcare. Consideration of and concern for human rights is clear across all of these achievements. As but one example, the UAE's efforts to mainstream human rights education into schooling and academia is praiseworthy.

In terms of recommendations, the Maldives recommends that, building on the decision to accede to the Convention against Torture; the UAE might also consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

Thank you Mr. President.