

UPR 4th Session

Bangladesh

The Maldives delegation would like to welcome its close friends and SAARC neighbors, Bangladesh, to Geneva. We would also like to congratulate them for the thorough and frank nature of the national report.

As Bangladesh's national report makes clear, the country faces immense geographic, environmental, demographic and poverty constraints. Yet Bangladesh has not allowed these constraints to prevent it from taking a range of impressive steps in the realms of governance, rule of law, socio-economic development, and human rights protection.

The Maldives delegation warmly welcomes the free and fair parliamentary elections held last month and the return to full parliamentary democracy. The high turn-out, the prevailing sense of hope and happiness of voters, and the excellent and innovative organization which characterized the polls all demonstrate the enduring strength of democracy and human rights in Bangladesh.

The success of the election also gives an early indication of the success of the recent institutional and legal reform initiatives taken by Bangladesh, including the full separation of the judiciary and the executive, the reconstitution and strengthening of the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Elections Commission, the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission, and de-politicization of the civil and police administration.

The national report also makes clear that low-lying Bangladesh, like the Maldives, is badly affected by climate change and related increases in global sea-levels and extreme weather events such as cyclones. These environmental changes, for which Bangladesh bears almost no responsibility, have significant negative implications for the enjoyment of human rights in Bangladesh.

With this in mind, the Maldives recommends that the international community, led by industrialized States which bear a historic responsibility for climate change, extends full support and cooperation to Bangladesh to help the country and its people adapt to the consequences of global warming. We also recommend that the adaptation policies, implemented with the support of the international community in Bangladesh, be premised on the need to promote and protect all human rights.

Thank you.