



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives
United Nations Office at Geneva

UPR 4th Session: China

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Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives delegation wishes to warmly welcome the high-level Chinese delegation to Geneva and to congratulate China on the extensive and thorough National Report which provides an open and frank assessment of the country's achievements and challenges.

It is of course difficult for the Maldives, a small island country of only 300,000 inhabitants to fully comprehend the challenges faced by our friends in China, a country of some 9.6 million square kilometers and 1.32 billion people spread among 56 different ethnic groups.

However, what is clear is the Chinese Government's determination, in the face of these challenges, to build a better life for its Citizens. The Maldives is particularly impressed by the enormous strides taken by China in the area of economic, social and cultural rights, the right to development and poverty eradication. These efforts serve as a template for many other developing countries, including the Maldives.



The Maldives also notes China's high-level of cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and the OHCHR: a clear signal of the country's determination to gradually improve all human rights in the Maldives in line with its international commitments and in light of China's national realities.

On this last point, the Maldives strongly supports the argument, made in China's national report, of implementing universally-agreed human rights norms in a manner that is sensitive to national realities. In this sense, national human rights institutions, which by their nature are more in-tune with local circumstances, needs and challenges, can be extremely useful.

With this in mind, the Maldives would like to recommend that China give consideration to the merits of establishing a national human rights institution.

Thank you Mr. President.