



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

The Maldives delegation would like to welcome the high level delegation of Malaysia to Geneva. We would also like to commend the consultative, transparent and inclusive approach adopted by Malaysia in preparing its national report.

Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the high priority and importance placed by Malaysia on education, as a tool for national development. We further acknowledge that the Education Development Master Plan (EDPM) 2006-2010 outlines the initiatives to ensure fair and equal educational opportunities for all children. We also note the particular emphasis placed by Malaysia in providing education opportunities for students with special needs, through special schools and integration programmes in regular schools.

The Maldives applauds the policies of Malaysia towards successful reduction of poverty. The statistics of dramatic decline of poverty in Malaysia in both urban and remote areas is very promising. Implementation of the various poverty reduction programmes is important, as elimination of poverty is crucial for the full enjoyment and realization of human rights.

The 2006 ILO report had also noted that Malaysia has managed to reduce poverty drastically and lessen inequalities in income and education while achieving economic growth and maintaining racial harmony. These improvements have resulted in huge leaps forward in terms of economic and social development of the country. We congratulate Malaysia on these positive developments.

With this in mind, the Maldives recommends that Malaysia continue its efforts to achieve its own targets for further reductions in poverty as stated in their Ninth Master Plan.

Thank you Mr. President.