



SHAZRA ABDUL SATDAN (17)

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to welcome the distinguished delegation of Vanuatu. We congratulate the delegation on the quality of the national report and express our hope that today's review will be a useful and rewarding experience.

As a Small Island Developing State, Vanuatu is faced with a range of challenges including limited human and financial resources, a dispersed geography, and extreme environmental vulnerability. With these constraints in mind, Vanuatu is to be congratulated for the many steps it has taken to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights. Article 5 of its national constitution provides a strong primary legal framework for human rights protection, while the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child are very welcome.

Notwithstanding these achievements, it is evident from the three UPR reports that Vanuatu faces a number of ongoing challenges especially in the area of gender inequality, vulnerability to climate change, and implementation of international commitments.

With these challenges in mind, the Maldives would like to ask two questions and make two recommendations.

First the questions.

1. In view of persistent gender inequalities and gender-related violence in Vanuatu, has the Government established a mechanism to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee?



2. How are climate change impacts affecting the enjoyment of core rights in Vanuatu including the rights to life, food, health, housing, self-determination and means of subsistence?

The Maldives would also like to make two recommendations.

1. In view of the importance of fully implementing its international human rights obligations, and the usefulness of independent national human rights institutions in this regard, the Maldives recommends that Vanuatu consider establishing a national human rights commission.
2. In view of the fact that Vanuatu acting alone cannot fully protect those rights put at risk by global climate change, the Maldives recommends that the international community, led by the major industrialized economies, help promote and protect human rights in Vanuatu by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to “safe” levels that are consistent with the full enjoyment of human rights, and by funding adaptation measures to help Vanuatu cope with those changes that are already taking place.

Thank you.