



Permanent Mission of the Maldives to UNOG & Other International Organisations

Statement – Rwanda

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the delegation of Rwanda to this 10th session of the UPR working group. We would also like to congratulate Rwanda on their national report and for their engagement with the UPR Process.

Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the extensive inter-agency coordination by Rwandan authorities in the preparation of the report. Civil society is a key stakeholder in the promotion and protection of human rights. In this regard, the Maldives would appreciate if the Delegation of Rwanda could elaborate more on the participation of civil society in the preparation of the report and its views on the role of the civil society in the implementation of the recommendations of this Review.

The Maldives commends the significant progress achieved in gender-parity at the decision-making level especially that 50% of the Supreme Court judges and 56% of parliamentarians are women. The Maldives Delegation also notes that prevalence of poverty and unemployment are disproportionately higher among women. As such, the Maldives would like to hear from the visiting Delegation the steps the Rwandan government is taking to eliminate existing discrimination against women and what steps are underway to reduce poverty and unemployment among women.

The Maldives understands the immense challenges and capacity-constraints faced by developing countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS. Nevertheless open and transparent engagement with the international partners is key to overcome those challenges. With this in mind, the Maldives would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. We recommend that Rwanda extend a Standing Invitation to UN human rights Special Procedures so that they can visit the country and assist the government with its human rights reforms.
2. The Maldives recommends that Rwanda become party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) and designate an official National Preventive Mechanism (NPM).
3. Lastly, the Maldives recommends that Rwanda ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Thank you.

H. E. M. Pruthisham Achary
Ambassador