



H.E. Ms. Imthiham
Adam

22

Statement – São Tomé and Príncipe

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the delegation of São Tomé and Príncipe to this 10th session of the UPR working group. São Tomé and Príncipe, like the Maldives, is a Small Island Developing with extremely limited resources and capacity constraints. Therefore, my Delegation wishes to extend sincere congratulations to the Delegation of Sao Tome & Príncipe for the completion of its national report; indeed a significant achievement. It is important for this working group to understand and appreciate this fact as we conduct the review. And thus the Maldives welcomes this opportunity to hold a dialogue with them and to exchange ideas and recommendations for improvement.

Mr. President,

São Tomé and Príncipe has faced significant developmental challenges since its transition to democratic government in 1991. Despite this São Tomé and Príncipe has taken significant positive steps towards strengthening its national human rights framework. The establishment of The National Child Rights Committee to monitor the domestic implementation of CRC in 2003 and the enactment of a national action plan promoting human rights within the education system in 2005 illustrate this progress. In terms of education, the Maldives welcomes recent efforts to reform the education system to support the advancement of learning.

That said, bearing in mind the developmental challenges as well as the limited capacity of Sao Tome & Príncipe, the Maldives would like to make the following recommendations with a view to further consolidating national human rights framework of the country:

1. Ratify the ICESCR, ICERD, ICCPR and CAT
2. Establish a national human rights institution with the assistance from the OHCHR
3. Issue a standing invitation to Special Procedures mandate-holders to help establish the basis of human rights education and training.
4. Work with the WHO and ILO to improve levels of sanitation, hygiene and maternal healthcare to reduce the spread of communicable diseases.
5. Cooperate with, inter alia, UNESCO and UNICEF to improve the education sector
6. Enact domestic legislation in line with the stipulations within the CRC to eliminate child prostitution.