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Statement – Palau

Delivered by H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam,

Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the delegation of Palau, a fellow Small island Developing State, to this 11th session of the UPR working group. We would also like to congratulate the Palau on the high quality and self-critical nature of its national report and on the extensive consultation process that lay behind it. These are significant achievements for a Small Island Developing State with limited resources.

Mr. President,

Palau, like the Maldives, faces enormous challenges in fully promoting and protecting human rights because of its size, geography and of its capacity constraints. It is important for this working group to understand and appreciate this fact as we conduct the review.

Maldives wishes to note that Palau had acceded to Convention on the Rights of the Child and had pledged to ratify the remaining core human rights conventions, including CEDAW, which is pending in the parliament for approval, as we speak. Maldives also wishes to note that Palau is also considering the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution. We understand that such processes can be lengthy and complicated even in the wealthiest nations, let alone in a country like Palau.

From the style and tone of its national report itself, it is evidence that there is room for improvement, and that Palauan authorities are looking forward to forge a positive partnership with international community to realize its human rights obligations. That said, the Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To complete the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution.
2. To ratify all remaining human rights conventions, particularly CEDAW
3. To extend a Standing Invitation to Special Procedure mandate-holders as a way of informing and supporting human rights reforms.
4. To meet its reporting obligations under CRC
5. To continue Palau's leading international efforts to tackle global warming, including by reminding developed countries and other major emitting States of their obligation to help promote and protect human rights in Palau by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to safe-levels.

I thank you, Mr. President.