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**Statement by H E Ms. Iruthisham Adam, Permanent Representative of Maldives to
Geneva**

Universal Periodic Review of Seychelles, 4 May 2011

Thank you Mr. President,

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

Mr. President,

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

The Maldives would like to highlight the pioneering role Seychelles has played in promoting strategies that take a people-centered toward human rights protection. The Seychelles Strategy 2017, implements this approach and has produced visible developmental results across Seychelles. In further support of this strategy, the Seychelles' current Macro-Economic Reform Programme (MERP) will lay a robust financial foundation for consolidating and furthering the great strides made with regard to socio-economic human rights. The Maldives also recognizes the Seychelles' progressive approach to human rights challenges, as enshrined in the Seychellois Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, that enshrines civil and political rights. We believe that Seychelles should be congratulated on this unique methodological approach that includes a refreshing awareness to the interrelated nature of human rights and sustainable development.



That said, as with all countries, there is room for improvement, and with this in mind, the Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Work with OHCHR to prepare a Common Core Document as a way to streamline and reduce the burden of Treaty reporting.
2. Look to develop programs that work to conclusively eliminate violence against women and children.
3. Extend a Standing Invitation to Special Procedure mandate-holders as a way of informing and supporting human rights reforms.
4. Continue Seychelles' 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 Seychelles by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to safe-levels.