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Statement by H E Ms Iruthisham Adam, Permanent Representative of Maldives in Geneva

Universal Periodic Review of Solomon Islands, 4 May 2011

Thank you Mr. President,

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

Mr. President,

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

It is clear from the 3 reports before us that, despite these constraints, the Solomon Islands has a strong commitment to human rights and has made important progress across a range of areas covering both civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights.

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. Ratify those conventions to which it is not yet Party, in particular the Convention against Torture, and its Optional Protocol.
2. Work with OHCHR to prepare a Common Core Document as a way to streamline and reduce the burden of Treaty reporting.
3. Extend a Standing Invitation to Special Procedure mandate-holders as a way of informing and supporting human rights reforms.



4. The UN compilation report raises various concerns in the area of gender discrimination including domestic violence, sexual abuse within the family, a lack of female participation in the parliament, and trading brides. The Maldives thus recommends that the Solomon Islands develop explicit legislation implementing the CEDAW provisions, and also that it invites the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to the country.
5. Continue its admirable 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 Solomon Islands by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to safe-levels.
6. We recommend that Solomon Islands consider opening a small Permanent Mission in Geneva, using facilities provided by the newly-opened Commonwealth Small States Office.