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

**Universal Periodic Review of Suriname, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the delegation of the Republic of Suriname to this 11<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR working group. We would also like to congratulate Suriname on their national report and for their engagement with the UPR Process.

Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes Suriname's commitment to protecting and promote the human rights of all its citizens. This is most notable in its efforts to safeguard women's rights through the CEDAW and implementing relevant national plans to further reduce gender-based disparities in work, education and in the domestic environment. This commitment is a key component to the improved standard of living and, in turn, improving domestic development. The Maldives also recognizes Suriname's willingness to engage with organizations such as UNICEF to learn more about how best to improve the lives of children – notably in the National Commission on the Elimination of all forms of Child Labor.

We appreciate the challenge of providing a uniform level of education to children in both rural and urban locations whilst recognizing the Government's efforts to address this problem through investment in infrastructure and training programs for teachers. The Maldives further recognizes Suriname's effort to ensure streamlined coordination of all nationwide efforts to improve human rights protection in Suriname.

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

1. Extend Standing Invitation to UN human rights Special Procedures.



2. Work with OHCHR to prepare a Common Core Document as a way to streamline and reduce the burden of Treaty reporting.
3. Establish a National Human Rights Institution.

Thank you, Mr President.