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

Universal Periodic Review of Samoa, 9 May 2011

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Samoa, a fellow Small Island Developing State, to this 11th session of the UPR working group. We would also like to congratulate Samoa on the high quality of its national report and on the extensive consultation process with a wide range of civil society groups. Both are significant achievements for a Small Island Developing State with limited resources.

Mr. President,

The Maldives appreciates that Samoa faces significant challenges in fully promoting and protecting human rights because of its size and capacity constraints. It is paramount that this working group understand and appreciate this fact as it conducts the review.

Samoa's commitment to providing all relevant actors in civil society with ownership of the submitted national report is indicative of the nature of Samoan culture; a rich culture that is naturally supportive of safeguarding human rights values. In more practical terms, Samoa's commitment to incorporate its international obligations into its local laws is admirable for a small state. Having read the reports of Samoa the Maldives would like to pose the following two questions to the visiting Delegation;

- a) Appreciating the challenges Samoa face in mainstreaming gender issues, the Maldives would like to clarify what work has been done by the Government in this effort?
- b) Taking note of Samoa's environmental vulnerability, the Maldives would like to clarify what impact climate change has on the enjoyment of human rights of Samoans?

Having said the above, Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the ICESCR, the CAT, the OPCAT and the two Optional Protocols of the CRC.
2. Establish a National Human Rights Institution and consider designating the NPM under the OPCAT.



3. Request the OHCHR for assistance in preparing a Common Core Document to streamline treaty reporting.
4. Develop a National Plan of Action that provides a road-map to ensure international human rights commitments are reflected in domestic legislation.
5. Continue Samoa'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 Samoa by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to safe-levels.