



Statement by the Maldives: UPR Working Group – Papua New Guinea

11 May 2011

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the delegation of Papua New Guinea, a fellow Small island Developing State, to this 11th session of the UPR working group. We would also like to congratulate the PNG for presenting 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,

PNG, 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 notes that with the successful implementation of multi-billion dollar liquefied natural gas project, PNG's GDP will be nearly doubled by the year 2020. Maldives wishes to state that such projects should be people-centered and executed with utmost respect for human rights and with extreme caution so as to reduce its negative impact on environment. If implemented with the right balance, Maldives believes that these projects do have the potential to bring in much needed infrastructure to PNG and indeed, further enhance the promotion of human rights in PNG. Having said that, the Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To complete the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution.
2. Maldives welcomes the visit of Special rapporteur on torture to PNG last May and recommends that PNG ratify the CAT and its Optional Protocol and consider designating the NHRI, when established, as the country's National Preventive Mechanism.
3. Ratify the CRPD and incorporate a disability perspective into its Vision 2050 and other development plans and programmes.
4. Extend a Standing Invitation to Special Procedure mandate-holders as a way of informing and supporting human rights reforms.
5. Ensure that all complaints of gender-based violence, regardless of perpetrators, be investigated and brought to justice.
6. Increase its scrutiny over extractive and logging industries and associated companies and businesses, with a view to reducing its negative impact on the environment and consequently, its unwarranted effects on the full enjoyment of human rights.
7. Continue PNG'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 PNG by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to safe-levels.

I thank you, Mr. President.