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IRUTHISHAM

ADAM

**Statement by Ambassador Iruthisham Adam, Permanent Representative of the
Maldives to the United Nations**

UPR of Antigua and Barbuda, 4 October 2011

Thankyou Madame President

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Antigua and Barbuda, a fellow Small Island Developing State, to this 12th session of the UPR working group.

The Maldives appreciates that Antigua and Barbuda 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.

Despite these challenges Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights is noteworthy. To this effect the Maldives would like to commend Antigua and Barbuda for its sensitive policies towards people of vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and the elderly. Additionally, Antigua and Barbuda's consciousness of the vulnerability of the poor and disadvantaged to a cycle of poverty ought to be highlighted. As such the Maldives appreciates the key national priorities of social protection and poverty alleviation identified in the State report.

Madame President,

That said, the Maldives notes the lack of consultation between the State functionaries in the preparation of the National Report. Hence, we would like to ask the Delegation, if the Government of Antigua and Barbuda would consider establishing a UPR Standing Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister's Office, that would facilitate better coordination and cooperation between the State functionaries in the follow up to the implementation of the UPR recommendations. As a small island developing State the Maldives's is willing to share its experience of conducting a consultative process in the run-up and follow-up to its own UPR that continues to be steered by a National UPR Standing Committee, comprised of key Government agencies, the National Human Rights Commission and representatives of the civil society organisations.

Secondly, the Maldives would like to request the Delegation to briefly describe the adverse effects posed by climate change on the enjoyment of human rights of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Thirdly, the Maldives appreciates the efforts by the Government to combat domestic violence. Further in this regard, the Maldives would like to hear if the Government of Antigua and Barbuda plan on introducing temporary special measures to encourage greater participation of women in political life.

Madame President,

With the above, the Maldives, in a spirit of cordiality and cooperation, would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda:

1. Establish a National Human Rights Institution.
2. Work with OHCHR to prepare a Common Core Document that would alleviate its

treaty-reporting burden.

3. Seek technical assistance from the OHCHR and the international community aimed for better strengthening and consolidation of the national human rights framework.