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

**UPR of Timor-Leste, 12 October 2011**

Thank you, Madame President

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Timor-Leste, a fellow Small Island Developing State, to this 12<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR working group. Although Timor-Leste is one of the youngest countries and given its geo-physical nature, the inclusive approach in preparing the state report by Timor-Leste, is truly commendable.

The Maldives appreciates that Timor-Leste 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 Timor-Leste's commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights is noteworthy. In this regard, Maldives note's Timor-Leste's policies towards people of vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and the elderly through introduction of welfare benefits. In addition to help the disabled and aged, we also believe that benefits would help in government's efforts to eliminate poverty. We also welcome the efforts by the Timor-Leste's to join CRPD and would like to pose a question to the distinguished delegation: is the government in a position to give a timeframe for the completion of ratification process?

Madame President,

The Maldives would also like to request the Delegation to briefly describe the adverse effects posed by climate change and natural disasters on the enjoyment of human rights of the people of Timor-Leste.

Thirdly, the Maldives appreciates the efforts by the Government to combat domestic violence and believes that newly adopted Law Against Domestic Violence would help government's efforts in the elimination of violence against women. We also note that a third of the MPs are female and some of the key ministerial portfolios are also held by women, although intimidation and reprisals against female candidates reportedly exist. We also note that discrimination is a reality for women in employment, as portrayed by the higher unemployment rate among women. Hence, the Maldives would like to hear if the Government of Timor-Leste plan on introducing temporary special measures to encourage greater participation of women in economic 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 Timor-Leste.

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, and set up a National Preventive Mechanism accordingly



2. Establish a modern Juvenile Justice System to consolidate the protection of the rights of children
3. Seek technical expertise from the Special Procedure mechanism by issuing a standing invitation to the Rapporteurs
4. Work with OHCHR to prepare a Common Core Document that would alleviate its treaty-reporting burden.
5. Recommend to incorporate the remaining provisions of IHRC into Timor Leste's legal framework

I thank you, Madam President.