

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**Statement to be delivered by
H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Maldives to the 15th Session of the Working Group on Universal
Periodic Review, on the Review of Tonga
Monday, 21 January 2013 (Afternoon)**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives as a fellow member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) would like to welcome the distinguished delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga. Tonga's participation here today is a clear testimony to its importance attached to human rights.

Mr. President,

We all agree that democratic reform processes are inherently difficult. Speaking from the democratic experience of the Maldives, we understand the multifaceted challenges Tonga faces in its democratization process. We commend the Kingdom of Tonga for the steps taken in 2010 which are the most profound constitutional and political reforms in the modern history of Tonga.

While the country is in its democratic reforms, the very existence of Tonga and its main economic



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Mr. President,

It is clear from the reports that Tonga has achieved a number of positive developments since its first UPR in 2008. Nevertheless, as with all countries there is room for improvement and for this we recognise that Tonga requires the support and technical assistance from the international community. The Maldives thus calls upon the international community to extend support to Tonga, in its efforts to consolidate its national human rights framework.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Ratify Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
2. Adopt draft Violence Against Women Bill, which is now in the Parliament
3. Intensify its efforts on human rights and environment, and with the newly appointed Independent Expert on Human Rights and Environment of the Council,

I thank you Mr. President.