



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

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**Statement delivered by;
Mr. Javed Faizal, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives
16th Session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review,
on the Review of Tuvalu
Wednesday, 24 April 2013 (Afternoon)**

Thank You Madam President,

The Maldives would like to welcome the distinguished delegation from Tuvalu to the Working Group of the UPR. We take note of the comprehensive consultation process that took place in Tuvalu, in the preparation of its national report, and commend the best practices adopted during this process. We also very much appreciate the level of engagement pursued by the Government of Tuvalu with the Human Rights Council and its UPR process.

Madam President,

It is clear that Tuvalu has achieved a number of significant developments since its first review in 2008, and we appreciate all its efforts and steps taken to implement these recommendations. Particularly, we take note of its efforts in addressing the issue of violence against women and welcome the formulation of the Family Protection and Domestic Violence Bill.

However, we also recognize that Tuvalu requires technical assistance and financial support from the international community, including from the OHCHR to fully realize the effectiveness of such recommendations on the ground. Capacity building in the long-term could prove to be valuable in promoting human rights in Tuvalu, raising awareness and interactions with the international human rights machinery.



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Madam President,

The Maldives remains deeply concerned by the situation of water scarcity in the country, and the challenges it currently faces in protecting the rights of its population in providing safe drinking water and sanitation to all. Tuvalu faces similar problems with water resources as with other small islands states. Climate change and sea-level rise continue to contaminate existing water sources, including the loss of fresh water lenses on its islands. We fully acknowledge this reality, and would urge that the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, be considered as a firm basis for advancement, since it takes on-board the adverse impacts of climate change and sea-level amongst other issues.

Madam President,

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To consolidate the development of a comprehensive national framework in addressing all forms of violence against women, through the adoption of the Domestic Violence Bill and to harmonize the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), with domestic law.
2. To establish a national human rights institution fully compliant with the Paris Principles.
3. To accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
4. To move forward, at the earliest possible opportunity, with the adoption of the draft Water Act to establish the legal framework and to put in place water resources and sanitation infrastructure, including adequate collection, storage and distribution mechanisms to alleviate the challenges of scarcity and to ensure that all its citizen's right to safe drinking water and sanitation are safeguarded.

Thank You Madam President.