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

**Statement to be delivered by
Ms. Rishfa Rasheed, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva
At the 16th Session of the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Djibouti
Thursday, 25 April 2013 (Afternoon)**

Thank You Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to welcome the distinguished delegation of Djibouti. The Maldives commend the ratification of international human rights treaties after the first cycle of UPR review, namely the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We also take note of Djibouti's efforts in the advancement and empowerment of women through reorganizing the Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Family Planning, and in establishing a National Gender Policy.

Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To continue its efforts in reforming Djibouti's Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure by incorporating a clear definition of torture and an explicit prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment in its domestic law.
2. To ensure that the work of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is aligned with the Paris Principles.
3. To take further steps in the implementation of CEDAW by prioritizing combating of gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation.

Thank You Mr. President.