



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

**17th Session of Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Geneva, 21 October – 01 November 2013**

**Review of Central African Republic
25 October 2013**

**Statement by Ms. Rishfa Rasheed, First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

Check Against Delivery

Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation of Central African Republic to the UPR and looks forward to constructive discussion on the promotion and protection of human rights in CAR.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

- To take all necessary measures to halt recruitment of children into armed groups and to adopt adequate legislation to prevent future recruitment
- To ensure access and right to education, especially among children and youth and to provide free and compulsory primary education for all children
- To extend standing invitations to special procedures mandate holders to visit the country, who can study the situation on the ground and make recommendations

Maldives is deeply concerned by reports that children still continue to be used by armed groups for different purposes. We would also like to hear from the delegation the status of the Plan of Action on Education for All (2003-2015). The Maldives also notes that administration of justice, impunity and rule of law needs to be established to ensure promotion and protection of human rights, and calls on all parties in the country to refrain from violence and respect human rights for all.

The Maldives takes note of the Government's commitment to protect women and children rights at its first review and we encourage the Central African Republic to ensure effective implementation of them. We also look forward to the adoption of the bill to protect older persons soon. The Maldives commends the CAR for its efforts to strengthen and promote human rights, and in this regard we note the positive initiative by the Government in holding the Interactive Dialogue at the 24th Session of the Human Rights Council, last September.

Thank you Mr. President