



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 Belize
28 October 2013**

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

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Mr. President

As a fellow member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Maldives welcomes the distinguished Delegation of Belize to the UPR. The Maldives would like to commend Belize for the wide-ranging consultations it has held at inter Ministerial and with the civil society in the compilation of the National Report.

The Maldives welcomes the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Government of Belize in May 2011.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations to Belize:

- 1- While noting the Domestic Violence Act of 2007 of Belize, the Maldives encourages Belize to investigate the cases of domestic violence that continue to be reported and ensure perpetrators are punished.
- 2- To incorporate in its legislation and take positive measures to implement the rights contained in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 3- To ratify Optional Protocol to CAT (OP-CAT), and ICESCR

Mr. President

The Maldives takes positive note of Belize's acceptance to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Maldives also commends efforts made by the Government to address women entrepreneurship, specifically by identifying needs of women, and business development. Maldives looks forward to the full implementation of the revised National Gender Policy of Belize.

As a SIDS, Belize faces capacity constraints to enforce and report on its Treaty obligations as a party. The Maldives calls on the international community to extend technical assistance to Belize, in its efforts to conduct training and awareness programmes and consolidation of its national human rights framework.

We wish the delegation all the best in its review and adoption of the report.

Thank you Mr. President.