



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 Chad
29 October 2013**

**Statement by Mr. Javed Faizal, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Madam Vice-President.

The Maldives warmly welcomes the delegation of Chad as a fellow member of the OIC, and we fully appreciate their active engagement with the UPR mechanism.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations;

First, to establish and strengthen mechanisms that provide support for victims of violence against women and girls, and to ensure that they are effectively protected from all forms of violence;

Second, to ensure persecution of perpetrators of violence against women;

And finally, to make further efforts to combat the recruitment of child soldiers to the National Army and to armed groups, with the aim of criminalising this practice in the near future.

Madam Vice-President,

We note positively that Chad has taken progressive strides in ratifying international human rights instruments, in particular the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, and on children in armed conflict respectively.

The Maldives recognises that as a developing nation, Chad continues to face various challenges. Several issues such as the recruitment of child soldiers and the levels of gender-based violence remain at disturbing levels. The lack of prosecution for perpetrators allows undeterred continuation of recruitment and of violence. Furthermore there are no laws criminalising the use of children as child soldiers as the laws that would criminalise this practice are still being drafted.

The Maldives fully supports and appreciates the steps already taken by the Government of Chad to engage in the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms. We will continue to extend our support in this regard, and wish the delegation of Chad all the best in the implementation of its agreed recommendations.

Thank you Madam Vice-President