



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

18th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review  
Geneva, 27 January – 7 February 2014

Review of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
27 January 2014

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,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Afghanistan and express its appreciation for the Government of Afghanistan's engagement with the UPR process.

The Maldives takes positive note of the progress made by the Government of Afghanistan in treaty reporting and reviewing of legislations in the country. We also look forward to the adoption and implementation of policies relating to Law of Social Protection, an important legislature to the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

Mr President,

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To allow journalists, human rights defenders among all others to exercise the right to freedom of expression.
2. To strengthen legislature and enforcement of law to end violence against women and promotion and protection of human rights of women and girls.

The Maldives urges the State under review to comply with its obligations under CEDAW. It encourages Afghanistan to continue its efforts to improve the situation of children, forced labor, accessibility to education for the disabled and those living as IDPs.

The Maldives notes the challenges faced by the Government of Afghanistan in addressing some of the human rights issues in the country, , and calls on all stakeholders – including the Government, private sector and international community to continue to increase their efforts for progress in the country. The Maldives takes this opportunity to commend the delegation of Afghanistan for their engagement with the Council, the OHCHR and Special Procedures.

We wish the brotherly people of Afghanistan, a peaceful, free and fair upcoming Presidential Elections.

I thank you Mr President.