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

**19th Session of Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Geneva, 28 April – 09 May 2014**

Review of Côte d'Ivoire, 29 April 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 extends a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of Côte d'Ivoire to the UPR Working Group.

My delegation would like to commend Côte d'Ivoire for its positive engagement with the Human Rights Council, and in particular the Universal Periodic Review process, and welcome the various efforts and policies the Government have made to improve the human rights situation in the country since its first review.

The Maldives would like to make the following two recommendations:

- To continue and strengthen efforts to provide quality education for all, especially free basic / primary education for children and education for persons with disabilities
- To approve the national strategy to promote gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women, and to strengthen mechanisms responsible to monitor its effective implementation.

Mr. President,

The Maldives is pleased to note that the Government of the Côte d'Ivoire has been cooperative and mindful of the recommendations made in the first cycle, including the ratification of the Convention on Protection of Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The Maldives notes that the Côte d'Ivoire has in principle agreed to visits of UN special procedures, including inter alia the Special Rapporteurs on torture, violence against women and human rights of migrants. In line with the principle of constructive engagement with Council mechanisms, the Maldives encourages the Government to issue a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council.

Further the Maldives would like to note with appreciation the efforts already undertaken by the Government of the Côte d'Ivoire with regards to the rights of the child and the promotion of the role of women in the country. The Maldives also welcomes the adoption of the Bill on organisation of the sector of human rights defenders. The Maldives also urges the State to continue its efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

We wish the delegation of the Côte d'Ivoire all the success in this review.

I thank you Mr. President.