



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 Republic of Albania, 28 April 2014**

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

*Check Against Delivery*

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Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Albania to its second cycle of review.

The Maldives commends the efforts made by the government of Albania to promote and protect human rights since its first review in 2009. In this regard, the Maldives would like to highlight the adoption of new legislations on human rights protection and the amendments brought to Albania's Penal code to align it with international human rights standards. These amendments especially the ones on protecting victims and imposing harsher punishments for perpetrators of domestic violence, are important steps to ensure that acts of violence against women are reduced.

The Maldives is also happy to note Albania's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Maldives hopes that the ratification would further improve the situation of persons with disabilities and protect them from discrimination and social exclusion.

Mr. President,

The Maldives hence would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1- To conduct outreach programmes in rural areas, in order to ensure that women with disabilities are not discriminated or socially excluded
- 2- To formulate and implement a plan for the integration of people with disabilities into mainstream society.

Mr. President,

It is evident that Albania has made significant strides towards improving its human rights profile since 2009. The Maldives supports this process and would like to wish the delegation of Albania the very best in this review.

Thank you, Mr. President.