



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 Dominica 1st May 2014

**Statement by Ms. Shiuneen 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 delegation of Dominica, a fellow Small Island Developing State and a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, and express its appreciation for their engagement in the review.

The Maldives is pleased to see that the Government of Dominica has made substantive progress in the field of promoting human rights since its last review, including extending a standing invitation to all Special Rapporteurs. The special attention Dominica has paid towards child rights, in particular through the campaigns against abuse and in promotion of physical integrity of the child as well as through the reform of its national legal framework is noteworthy.

Further, the Maldives would also like to commend the efforts made by the Government of Dominica with regards to the rights of persons with disabilities. The Maldives welcomes the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Dominica and the announcement of the establishment of a national disabilities council which it believes would further encourage the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workforce, the educational system and the society as a whole.

Mr. President,

Based on its own experience, the Maldives believes that small states like Dominica require financial and technical assistance from International bodies to establish and strengthen human rights mechanisms in their respective countries. Hence the Maldives, in line with our recommendation during the first cycle, would like to call upon the OHCHR to provide technical assistance to Dominica for the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution which is an essential building block for the progress of human rights, and also towards accepting and implementing international human rights instruments in the country.

The Maldives wishes the delegation of Dominica the very best for this second cycle of review.

I thank you Mr. President.