



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

**20th Session of Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Geneva, 27 October – 7 November 2014**

Review of Italy, 27 October 2014

**Statement by Ms. Rishfa Rasheed, Counsellor / Chargé d' affaires, a.i.,
Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Mr. President

The Maldives welcomes the Italian delegation to this review, and also the national report submitted by Italy for the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. We commend Italy's periodic submission of reports concerning the implementation of international human rights instruments. We believe that complying with these reporting mechanisms, especially in the UPR process is critical to maintain constructive dialogue and enhance development.

Protecting the rights of women and children remain priorities of the Government of Maldives. Although Italy has made commendable progress on these issues, some areas remain to be of concern. The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To strengthen domestic legislations to prevent sexual violence against women and provide necessary support to the victims
2. Protect children from all types of abuse by ensuring rigorous implementation and monitoring of existing frameworks to capture all threats to all children

The Maldives takes note of the progressive strides that Italy has made to protect the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and improve the immigration framework of the country.

Finally, the Maldives commends the work done by Italy to implement 74 out of the 78 recommendations from the first cycle, with a significant amount of financial and human resources allocated to human rights promotion. We encourage Italy to remain just as receptive to the recommendations from the second cycle, and hope to see further progress in human rights over the next period.

Thank you Mr President