



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 Fiji, 29 October 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 warmly welcomes the delegation of Fiji, a fellow Small Island Developing State, to its second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

The Maldives appreciates the efforts of the Government of Fiji to promote and protect human rights in the country since its last review in 2010. In this regard, the Maldives welcomes the new Constitution of Fiji which came in to force in 2013, and hopes that its comprehensive bill of rights would provide the people of Fiji the necessary safeguards against all human rights violations.

The Maldives also congratulates the Government of Fiji for holding successful elections last month and welcomes the Government's commitment towards democratic consolidation and rule of law.

Mr. President,

As a recent democracy and a Small Island Developing State, the Maldives understands the challenges faced by Fiji in implementing some of the recommendations it received in the last cycle, especially with the past few years focused mainly on reviewing the constitution and bringing about institutional reforms. However, the Maldives is confident that the new democratically elected Government and representatives will ensure its effective implementation in the near future.

The Maldives, hence would like to make the following recommendation to the delegation of Fiji;

1. To strengthen and implement policy measures to eliminate child trafficking

Mr. President,

The Maldives further welcomes the efforts of the Government of Fiji to reduce carbon emissions and specific initiatives on climate change mitigation and adaptation. A comprehensive climate change policy is instrumental for the protection and preservation of basic human rights.

The Maldives wishes the delegation of Fiji the very best for their review and thanks them once again for their constructive engagement today.

Thank you, Mr. President.