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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 Kazakhstan, 30 October 2014**

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

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Thank you Mr. President ,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation of Kazakhstan, a fellow member of Asian Group as well as OIC to this Working Group today. We also express our appreciation for the national report presented by Kazakhstan today.

Conscious on the efforts undertaken so far, the Maldives wishes to make the following recommendation:

1. Strengthen Government efforts to ensure protection and provide redress to victims of domestic violence

The Maldives believes that maximum efforts must be ensured to end all forms of gender based violence. These can include granting funds to the creation and further development of crisis centers and shelters for women. We believe that creating safe havens for the victims of domestic violence, is the first step in restoring their confidence and in allowing them to seek justice.

The Maldives takes note of the national plan for long term action to ensure the protection of the rights and to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities for the period of 2012 to 2018. We perceive, the plan as a sound initiative to ensure that persons with disabilities do not face any discrimination from participating in the political life of the country. The Maldives further notes the implementation of a national plan of action on the prevention of human trafficking. The plan with its 40 specific actions undertaken over the subsequent two years is a strong action to combat this human rights violation.

The Maldives is confident that the Government of Kazakhstan will take this UPR review as a source of progress for the country to improve its human rights situation on the ground.

Thank you Mr. President