



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 Iraq, 3 November 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 the brotherly country of Iraq to its second cycle of the UPR and commends the strenuous efforts of the government of Iraq to improve the human rights situation of the country since its last review in 2010.

In this regard, the Maldives welcomes the ratification of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by Iraq last year and for ushering in the Act on persons with disabilities and special needs. The Maldives is confident that this would ensure the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and protect them from all forms of discrimination.

The Maldives is also pleased to know that the Government of Iraq is currently working on draft legislation on Domestic Violence and expresses hope that it would be adopted quickly, to strengthen the Government's efforts to combat domestic violence.

Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to make the following two recommendations to Iraq

1. Review national legislation to ensure that children are afforded the necessary protection in the juvenile justice system.
2. Strengthen efforts to enable girls from rural areas to enroll in schools and other educational institutions.

Mr. President,

The Maldives understands the difficulties faced by the government of Iraq in its efforts to promote and protect human rights. With remnants of dictatorship still visible and with the constant threat of terrorism, the achievements made by Iraq with regards to human rights, are truly remarkable. The Maldives will continue to support Iraq in this challenging journey and its fight against terrorism.

The Maldives thanks the delegation of Iraq for their positive engagement in the UPR today and wishes them well in the implementation of the recommendations it receives.

Thank you, Mr. President.