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

**21st Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review  
Geneva, 19 – 30 January 2015**

**Review of Kiribati, 19 January 2015**

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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 Kiribati to the UPR Working Group, and thank them for the submission of its national report. In its first review, Kiribati informed the challenges and limited resources it encounters, in meeting its human rights obligations. A trait that, Maldives, as a Small Island Developing State, in similar circumstances, duly recognizes. Notwithstanding, Maldives is pleased, that Kiribati has made progress in meeting some of its international human rights obligations, in incorporating such principles and values into national legislations and enacting some important Acts in the Parliament.

My delegation commends the efforts made by the Government of Kiribati, in ratifying the CRPD, and adopting the Bill to criminalise Domestic Violence, *Te Rau n te Mwenga Act (2014)*. The National Approach to Eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence (ESGBV) in Kiribati: Policy and Action Plan 2011-2021, as stated in the National report, is an important milestone, which we believe would help the nation respond to a problem at its domestic front, which is affecting many women and girls world –wide.

The Maldives also applauds the initiatives by the Kiribati, despite its limited resources, to address Climate Change issues through mitigation, adaptation and relocation measures. We believe, the Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy (KIEP) launched in 2013 and the Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (KJIP) would assist the country in addressing such. Maldives urges the Government to address its issues of development, through a “sustainable means” lens, with focus on climate change adaptation and disaster reduction.

While noting the challenges faced by Kiribati to improve its human rights on the ground, Maldives makes the following recommendations:

1. Following the enactment of the Education Act (2013), to adopt policies and regulations, to strengthen access to and quality of education, which is free and compulsory for all school-aged children.
2. To urgently take appropriate measures to address high infant and child mortality rates.

To conclude, Maldives encourages the Government of Kiribati to continue its legislative reform to align national laws with international instruments, and to continue to play a strong role in raising the voices of small states, at the international fora.

We wish the Kiribati delegation the best in this review.

Thank you Mr President.