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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 Guinea-Bissau, 23 January 2015

**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 welcomes the delegation of Guinea-Bissau to this review; and expresses its sincere appreciation for Guinea-Bissau's submission of its national report to the UPR process. We strongly believe in participating, contributing and diligently complying with the U.N's reporting mechanisms, and especially with that of the UPR's. Maldives believe that the significance of such matters not only to our own development as individual countries, but also to the maintenance of an ongoing human rights dialogue amongst us as a community.

The Maldives congratulates the Government of Guinea-Bissau for holding successful Presidential and legislative elections in 2014. My Delegation urges the Government to take into priority, the maintenance of peace and stability in the country. Further Maldives calls, to urgently address its economic situation and to take substantive steps to reduce extreme poverty in the country.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To strengthen efforts to eliminate early and forced marriage.
2. To ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
3. To take significant measures to reduce poverty, especially taking into consideration, the rights of children

The Maldives recognizes the challenges faced by the Government in addressing its development issues. We take positive note of the work done thus far by Guinea-Bissau, namely its adoption of the Strategic Plan for the Eradication of Gender Based Violence; and its enactment of the human trafficking (July 2011), and domestic violence (February 2014) legislations.

In conclusion, taking into consideration the challenges faced by the country, the Maldives reiterate the call made by the Guinea-Bissau's delegation to the international community to provide it with technical and financial assistance. Such would be essential for the country, to move forward with its plans on sustainable development and to take positive steps on the protection of its human rights.

We wish the delegation the best during this review.

Thank you Mr. President