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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 Grenada, 26 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. Vice President,

The Maldives extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Grenada, a fellow Small Island Developing State, led by His Excellency Mr. Robert Branch, to its second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and thanks them for their constructive engagement in the process today.

The Maldives commends Grenada for the progress it has made since the last review despite numerous prevailing challenges, by acceding key International human rights instruments and its efforts in combating violence against women and protecting the rights of children. The Maldives particularly notes the enactment of the National Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Protocol of 2011 and the Child (Protection and Adoption) Act of 2010. The Maldives further encourages Grenada, to continue and strengthen its efforts in this regard, and overall human rights promotion and protection.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations to Grenada.

1. To strengthen existing measures to protect the rights of children and girl child from all forms of abuse and exploitations and also to adopt necessary guidelines and procedures to fully enforce the Juvenile Justice Act.
2. Establish stronger measures to eliminate gender based discrimination, especially at the work environment.

Mr. Vice President,

As a Small Island Developing State, the Maldives understands the difficulties and challenges faced by Grenada in complying with the reporting obligations from International Human Rights mechanisms. However, the Maldives believes that submitting a national report to the UPR process is essential and particularly helpful to the state under review, because it provides a clear picture of the progress of human rights in the country to the delegations providing recommendations. Given the significance and universality of the process, it is hence important that the High Commissioner's office provide the required technical assistance to these countries in preparing their National reports ahead of their reviews.

The Maldives also notes with concern the severe effects of climate change on the people of Grenada. Like most Small Island States, Grenada is particularly vulnerable to climate change and adverse weather conditions. The Maldives however commends the climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts of the Government of Grenada in making its communities more resilient to such changes. The Maldives also calls upon the International Community to continue to assist Grenada in this regard.

The Maldives once again thanks His Excellency Mr. Robert Branch once again for the presentation and wish Grenada the very best in this review.

I, thank you, Mr. Vice President