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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 Guyana, 28 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 Guyana to its second cycle of the UPR and takes note of the country's many efforts to improve its human rights situation since its first review in 2010.

Protecting the rights of women and children is a key priority of the Government of the Maldives. Hence the Maldives commends the ratification of the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child by Guyana and also the adoption of the Child Care Developmental services Act of 2011.

Safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities, especially children, is another focal area of the Maldives. In this context, we welcome the adoption of 'The Persons with Disabilities Act' of 2010, ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the implementation of 'The National Commission on Disability Strategic Plan for 2008–2011'.

Conscious of the positive efforts of the Government of Guyana and the commendable progress that has been made in many areas, the Maldives would like to make the following recommendations to the delegation of Guyana.

1. To combat prevailing discrimination against children with disabilities and to ensure the availability of appropriate health and equal educational services for such children.
2. To strengthen the legislative framework and ensure its effective enforcement in eliminating all forms of discrimination against women.

The Maldives appreciate the efforts of the Government of Guyana to promote and protect human rights on the ground. The Maldives would like to thank the delegation of Guyana for its constructive engagement in the UPR process and wishes them well in the implementation of the recommendations it receives today.

I Thank you, Mr President