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

**22st Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review
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Review of Marshall Islands, 11 May 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 extends a warm welcome to the distinguished delegates from the Marshall Islands, a fellow member of the Alliance of Small Island States, to this second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. We would like to take this opportunity also to congratulate the Marshall Islands for its comprehensive and inclusive national report.

Being itself a small island state at the forefront of the struggle with the severe consequences of the climate change, the Maldives is well familiar with the immense challenges that the Marshall Islands are confronted with, and therefore would like to express its utmost respect to the progress it has made in the promotion and protection of human rights since the last review.

Mr. President,

As proven on multiple occasions, the Maldives has always been deeply concerned with the wellbeing of the particularly vulnerable groups of the society.

Consequently, recognizing that each form of discrimination and violence against women not only contradicts internationally recognized human rights standards, but also impedes civil development of the society, and undermines social cohesion of the nation, we commend the Marshall Islands for the adoption of the 2011 Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act. We praise the efforts that the Marshall Islands has already made, and encourage it to work with equal devotion on a prompt and effective implementation of that document.

Secondly, the Maldives notes with great satisfaction the progress made by the Marshall Islands in the implementation of a national program aimed at eliminating violence against children. We warmly welcome the first draft of the Child Protection Bill and encourage the Marshall Islands to expeditiously prepare the final text and pass it into law.

Finally, the Maldives would like to congratulate the Marshall Islands for the recent advancements in improving the quality of life of person with disabilities. We welcome the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in March this year, which we believe is an important step in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities.

In light of this, we would like to make the following 2 recommendations.

1. Takes all necessary steps to promptly adopt and implement a comprehensive national disability policy in full compliance with international standards.
2. Seek technical assistance and cooperation to combat the high prevalence of NCDs and its root causes

We wish the Marshall Islands delegation the best in this review

I thank you Mr. President.