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

**22nd Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review
Geneva, 4 – 15 May 2015**

Review of Jamaica, 13 May 2015

**Statement by Ms. Geela Ali, Charge' d'affaires a.i
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 delegation of Jamaica, a fellow Small Island Developing State, to this second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and thanks them for their active engagement with the Working Group this morning.

The Maldives commends Jamaica for the progress made in key areas since its last UPR in 2010, in particular its achievements in addressing gender equality, non-discrimination and empowerment of women. In this regard the Maldives is happy to note the National Policy for Gender Equality of 2011, adoption of the charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms as well as the high percentage of women at the public decision making level in Jamaica. The Maldives also commends the formation of the recent social protection strategy of Jamaica, which is essential in safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups in the society.

Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to make the following two recommendations to Jamaica

1. Strengthen efforts to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities and take specific measures to increase employment opportunities for them
Or
2. Establish stronger measures to increase access to education particularly to those living in rural areas

Mr. President,

The Maldives is familiar with the challenges faced by Small Island States such as Jamaica due to climate change and adverse weather conditions, which constantly threatens the fundamental rights of its people. The Maldives commends Jamaica's comprehensive climate change mitigation and adaptation policies in place at the local level and its leadership in addressing these issues globally.

We wish the delegation of Jamaica the very best in this review

I thank you Mr. President.