

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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

**23rd Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review
2 - 13 November 2015, Geneva**

**Review of Nepal
4 November 2015**

**Statement by Ms. Geela Ali, Minister / Chargé d'affaires, a.i.,
Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to welcome the distinguished delegation of Nepal led by....., and express its appreciation for its national report and their engagement in the second cycle of Universal Periodic Review process.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Take measures to ensure compulsory and free primary and quality education for all
2. Take measures to ensure universal vaccination coverage

While Maldives recalls the recent earthquake that struck Nepal in April 2015, which caused widespread destruction and loss of life, the Maldives appreciates the Governments reconstruction efforts in restoring the critical public services such as establishing temporary local government offices and other public buildings as well as its continued focus on the long term programmes in livelihoods and community infrastructures. Maldives welcomes the adoption of the 7th iteration of the Nepal Constitution, on the 20th September 2015, a major milestone in the country's democratic development.

Moreover, as long-time proponents of the importance of healthcare, the Maldives was pleased to see Nepal has approved a new National Health Policy, 2014, and Health Insurance Directives, 2014, to ensure the right to health as a fundamental right of every citizen.

Lastly, the Maldives appreciate the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Empowerment and elimination of Gender Based Violence (2013–2018) as an umbrella policy, and other sectoral policies on women's rights.

The Maldives wishes Nepal success during this review.

Thank you Mr. President.