

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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

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

**Review of Saint Kitts and Nevis  
11 November 2015**

**Statement by Ms. Rishfa Rasheed, Counsellor,  
Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives extends a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, and expresses appreciation for the national report and participation in the Universal Periodic Review process.

The Maldives recommends Saint Kitts and Nevis to:

1. Enact a national gender policy and augment the capacity for gender analysis within government ministries, departments and agencies that coordinate policy development
2. Create a formal health policy
3. Take supplementary actions to advance comprehensive education, to further promote inclusive education in all its aspects

The Maldives commends the progresses made by Saint Kitts and Nevis in ameliorating the standard of living of its people, while being faced with the challenges of a Small Island Developing State, as well as the fiscal austerity measures. In the area of education, highly valued by the Maldives, Saint Kitts and Nevis worked to improve the quality of education and accessibility, and have adopted The White Paper on Education and Policy, which provides a blueprint for the development of the Education Sector over the period 2009–2019.

The Maldives appreciates that Saint Kitts and Nevis continue its work to improve access to reliable and affordable health services. The country has had success in addressing the health-related Millennium Development Goals, life expectancy is high, infant mortality remains low and that maternal mortality is almost non-existent. We congratulate Saint Kitts and Nevis on having a high standard of health. We encourage the State to formalise health-related issues by enacting laws, reviewing and updating them regularly.

Finally, the Maldives would like to express its appreciation for Saint Kitts and Nevis' progress towards gender equality. In this regard, two major steps were the implementation of The Equal Pay Act 2012, which defines equal pay as a rate or scale of remuneration for work in which there is no element of differentiation between male and female employees, and The Domestic Violence Act 2014 that enabled the Government through the Department of Gender Affairs to heighten awareness relating to teenage pregnancy, sexual education and violence against women and children.

The Maldives wishes the delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis great success during this review.

Thank you Mr. President.

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