



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

**24th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review
18 - 29 January 2016, Geneva**

**Review of Palau
21 January 2016**

**Statement by Her Excellency Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva**

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Thank you Mr. Vice President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Palau - fellow SIDS to this review, led by the Her Excellency Ms. J Baklai Temengil, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs and Chairperson of the National Human rights Committee of Palau. We also express our appreciation for the submission of Palau's national report and constructive engagement in this process.

The Maldives takes positive note of the developments Palau has made since the first review, and for the implementation of some of the recommendations made by the Maldives.

While noting the considerable financial and human resource constraints faced by Palau, as a Small Island Developing State, the Maldives wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Enact national legislation to protect the rights of the child
2. Implement the National Disability Inclusive Policy 2015-2020

The Maldives commends the progress Palau has made, including the enactment of the Family Protection Act, the Non-Communicable Disease Strategic Plan 2015-2020, and the new Penal Code. The Maldives also commends the efforts of Palau to adopt measures to combat human trafficking, and also for its progress in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women (MDG 3).

The Maldives welcomes the "Palau Climate Change Policy for Disaster Resilient Low Emissions Development" in July 2015, and the joint project "Sustainable Economic Development through Renewable Energy Applications".

As a nation that is equally vulnerable to the effects of climate change, the Maldives acknowledges and recognises the challenges to the full realisation of human rights. Taking these into account, the Maldives encourages the Government of Palau to reach out to its partners, including the United Nations, and seek support for the implementation of the recommendations that are made today at this review.

Finally, let me wish the delegation of the Palau every success during this review, and use this opportunity to thank the Government of Palau for their contribution to AOSIS and efforts to raise the voice of Small Island Developing States.

Thank you Mr. Vice President.
