



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

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**Review of Seychelles
25 January 2016**

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

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Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of fellow Small Island Developing State, Seychelles to this review, led by HE Mr. Barry JJ Faure, Secretary of State, Department of Foreign Affairs. We express our appreciation for the national report and the engagement in this process.

The Maldives is pleased to note that Seychelles has submitted voluntarily a mid-term report on the implementation of the recommendations it received in the first cycle of UPR, and made significant progress in this endeavor.

The Maldives wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Enact legislations to combat domestic violence
2. Take measures to integrate Technical Vocational Education and Training' into formal education

The Maldives commends the efforts of the Government of Seychelles to promote the rights of the child, by enacting several legislations towards protection of children. The Maldives also notes the high levels of educational enrolment and achievement of girls, compared to boys, a trend we have noted in the Maldives as well.

The Maldives further welcomes the efforts to legislative reform by enacting several legislations including: 'Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2014', 'Institute of Early Childhood Development Act, 2014', 'Disaster Management Act, 2014', 'Local Government Act 2015', 'Witness Protection Act, 2015', ('Seychelles Broadcasting Cooperation (SBC) Act' of 2011, 'Seychelles Broadcasting Cooperation (SBC) Act' of 2011, 'Animal and Plant Biosecurity Act, 2014', 'Food Act, 2014'), among others.

As a Small Island Developing State, the Maldives is aware of the challenges Seychelles faces in its efforts towards sustainable development. The Maldives encourages Seychelles to continue to reach out to its international partners, including the OHCHR for financial, technical assistance towards promotion and protection of human rights.

Before concluding, the Government of Maldives commends the efforts of the Government of Seychelles in raising the voices, vulnerabilities and challenges of SIDS in international fora, and the initiatives taken nationally to combat the effects of climate change.

We wish the delegation of Seychelles success during this review.

Thank you Mr. President.