



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

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**Review of Solomon Islands
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. Vice President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of fellow Small Island Developing State, Solomon Islands to this review, led by HE Mr. Milner Tozaka, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade. We express our appreciation for the national report and the engagement in this process.

The Maldives welcomes the adoption of a number of legislations, including the Family Protection Act 2014, Immigration Act 2012 and the ratification of a number of International Labour Organization (ILO) fundamental conventions.

The Maldives wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Conduct awareness raising and sensitization programmes to empower women, advance women's rights, and ensure gender equality.
2. Take stronger measures to combat domestic violence and protect its victims
3. Strengthen the education system to reduce gender disparity and improve education standard throughout the country.

As a Small Island Developing State, the Maldives understands the challenges Solomon Islands faces in its efforts towards social protection and sustainable development. The Maldives encourages Solomon Islands to continue to reach out to its international partners, including the OHCHR for financial, technical and other assistance towards promotion and protection of human rights. The Maldives is also encouraged by the voluntary commitments stated in the national report.

Before concluding, the Government of Maldives commends the efforts of the Government of Solomon Islands to highlight at the international community, the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States, and also the national actions to combat the various effects of climate change and natural disasters that Solomon Islands and other similar nations face.

We wish the delegation of Solomon Islands all the success during this review.

Thank you Mr. Vice President.