

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GENEVA

**27th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
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Review of South Africa
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Statement by:
Mr Jeffrey Salim Waheed,
Minister | Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives

Thank you Mr President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the delegation from the South Africa to this review. We express our appreciation for today’s presentation, and take positive note of the national report.

The Maldives commends the efforts of the Government of South Africa in improving access to education for children with disabilities through the implementation of the Policy on Inclusive Education as embodied in the Education White Paper 6 (2001) and the Policy on Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support (2014). The Maldives is also encouraged by efforts of the National Planning Commission (NPC) of South Africa and welcomes its first long-range plan – National Development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030, which aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030.

The Maldives recommends that the Government of South Africa:

- 1- Take effective measures to eliminate disparity in health-care provision between rural and urban areas and improve the quality of health services including, through adoption of effective legislation on the national health;
- 2- Continue its efforts to combat trafficking of persons through the effective implementation of the Prevention and Combatting of Torture of Persons Act; and
- 3- Expedite the enactment of the proposed Gender Equality Bill.

We wish the delegation of South Africa all the success during this review. Thank you.