



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

**Statement to the General Debate under Agenda Item 6,  
By Mr. Muruthala Moosa, Third Secretary,**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council  
Friday, 7 June 2013**

Thank you Mr. President,

For the UPR mechanism to make any different on the ground, recommendations accepted by the State needs to be implemented, and hence the Maldives take the implementation of its own recommendations very seriously. Let me therefore seize this opportunity to brief the Council on the progress made, in the implementation of its accepted UPR recommendations.

Since its UPR review, the Maldives had ratified ILO's Core Conventions in January 2013 and acceded to the Rome Statute of the ICC in September 2011. It also signed the CRC's Optional Protocol on a Communications' Procedure in February 2012 and are currently going through domestic procedures needed for ratification. Work is currently underway to sign the only remaining core human rights convention, namely the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families. In addition to this the Maldives is also engaged in acceding to the Optional Protocol to Prevent the Trafficking in Persons at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Maldives had already submitted its pending national reports on CEDAW and CRC, while its initial report to CRPD is already drafted and is being reviewed by various institutions of the State.

Mr. President,

Protecting the rights of the child, particularly that of the girl child, has always been a top priority. In April 2013, the President created a committee to identify the gaps within the system and make recommendations to President. In May 2013 Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Ms. Marta Santos Pais visited Maldives as part of the ongoing engagement with human rights mechanism. Her recommendations along with the presidential committee will further strengthen system-wide effort to protect the rights of the child. In addition, a Juvenile Justice Bill and a revised Children's Rights Bill is already in the last stages of drafting and will be submitted to the parliament in mid 2013.

On women's rights, a Domestic Violence Act was ratified in 2012. In addition a sexual harassment bill and a sexual offenses bill was drafted in mid 2012 and submitted to parliament. The Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights is also drafting a gender equality bill.

Mr. President,



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In August 2010 the Maldives adopted its first Disability Act, fully in line with CRPD. A Disability Council, as mandated by the Act was constituted to implement the Act. The Government also introduced a pension scheme for the disabled, and a National Policy on Disability is being finalized which will be launched in July 2013.

A key area of recommendations also touched upon strengthening the institutional capacity in protecting and promoting human rights. Just this Session, the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers presented her report on her mission to Maldives. The Government is examining her recommendations with a view to implement them. A legal profession bill is being drafted with UNDP assistance, which will also create an independent bar association.

Mr. President,

I also wish to report to this Council on efforts on counter-trafficking in persons. Anti-trafficking bill is in the final stages of parliament. Despite the long delay on the adoption of the bill, Government has already launched and begun the implementation of a National Human Trafficking Action Plan. A hotline for the victims of human trafficking and a halfway house is already in operation.

While these are just few steps taken on the implementation of the Maldives' UPR recommendations, I also wish to announce that as voluntarily committed in 2010 we will circulate its mid-term report in June 2013.

I thank you.