



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

**Statement by Ms. Rishfa Rasheed
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Maldives
to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

**At the Panel on the Contribution of Parliaments to the Work of the
Human Rights Council and Its Universal Periodic Review**

**At the 23rd Session of United Nations Human Rights Council
Geneva, 29 May 2013**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to thank High Commissioner HE Ms. Navi Pillay and the Secretary General of IPU, HE Mr. Anders B. Johnsson for their opening statements at this very important panel. I would also like to thank all the Panelists for their presentations and interesting dialogue today.

The Maldives fully believes in the UPR process as the most effective tool for ensuring respect for human rights in all the 193 member states of the United Nations. It is with this insight that Maldives advocated on the value added role by the Parliamentarians on the effective participation and implementation of UPR of member states, particularly from a SIDS perspectives. It is also because of the importance we attached to the role of parliamentarians in human rights that Maldives had become part of the core group that led the resolution that called for this Panel. Parliaments are the policy-making legislative mechanisms in a state. Hence, upholding human rights and the state's obligations under international treaties are as much a responsibility of the Parliament and Judiciary, as the Executive.

Mr. Chairman,



As experienced by many SIDS, the Maldives has been facing many challenges in preparing its national report under UPR and implementing the recommendations. Lack of financial and human resources, and the geographical nature of the country greatly challenges us in creating awareness as well as making community-level commitment to the preparation of the national reports and their implementation.

To enhance the role of Parliaments in the UPR process and the Council in promoting human rights require immediate and important steps that need to be taken. These can include:

1. Increasing awareness on the work of the Council among Parliamentarians and how their inputs can strengthen the process, by means of workshops and seminars
2. Establishing Parliamentary Committees on Human Rights can help in effective and active participation of Parliamentarians in the Human Rights Council and UPR.
3. Develop policies and procedures to hold Parliamentarians accountable in the preparation of the National Report, as well as in the implementation of the recommendations.
4. OHCHR and IPU integrate dialogue on the role of parliamentarians on the protection of human rights, promotion of rule of law and democracy, and implementation of international obligations into their national and regional human rights frameworks.

Thank you Mr. Chairman