

10. Panel on Role of Prevention in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

**27th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
8 – 26 September 2014, Geneva**

**Panel discussion on the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of
human rights
18 September 2014**

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

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Thank you, Mr President,

The Maldives thanks the Panellists for the very enlightening discussion on the topic today. The Maldives attaches great importance to this issue and hopes that this panel discussion would shed new light in to the important role prevention plays in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Mr. President,

The Maldives recognises the role of formal institutions in the prevention of human rights violations. These formal structures alone however, are not enough to promote and protect human rights within communities. The Maldives strongly believes that equal focus should be given to cultivating values, norms and a culture of respect for human rights, especially in emerging democracies. Such states face numerous challenges while in transition and if adequate mechanisms are not in place to assist, they risk reverting to suppression. Hence the Maldives requests that this aspect be highlighted in future discussions on the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights and explore ways to strengthen relevant formal and informal structures within communities.

Further, the Maldives believes that National Human Rights Institutions could also play an essential role in prevention, by strengthening its functions and through professional conduct. The Government will continue to assist and cooperate with the NHRI in its efforts to promote and protect human rights.

Mr. President,

A vibrant and an active civil society is also essential in preventing human rights violations within communities. NGOs and other civil society actors should have the freedom to express their views on issues of concern and to make Government institutions accountable. The Government has always been supportive of the civil society and has engaged constructively on wide ranging issues. Prominent civil society actors are also involved in the national consultative process for our Universal Periodic Review.

Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to once again thank the panellists for their important contributions today and hope this discussion would contribute to developing further the concept of prevention of human rights violations.

I thank you Mr President.