

9. Annual Discussion on Integrating a Gender Perspective

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

**Annual day Discussion on Integration of a Gender Perspective:  
Panel on “Gender integration in the country-focused work of the Council”  
15 September 2014**

**Statement by Ms. Rishfa 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 welcomes this annual discussion, and would like to thank the distinguished panelists for this illuminating dialogue. We would like to express our fervent support for the integration of a gender perspective in the Council’s mechanisms.

The Maldives has continued to prioritise and strongly advocate the importance of women’s rights and gender equality. We view the systematic implementation of measures as integral to the country-focused work of the Council in guaranteeing the progression of women across economic, social and political sectors.

The Maldives welcomes the Council’s attention given to the prominent role of women in the selection / appointment of women in the Council’s mechanisms including special procedures. We believe that the perspective provided by women sheds light on areas often unattended to. We also encourage existing mechanisms, such as commissions of enquiries, fact-finding missions, among others, to ensure a representation and voice of women, especially on issues that directly affect them, such as violence against women, discrimination, access to education and healthcare, and other decision-making issues.

Mr. President,

Since the inception of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2006, the Maldives has continued to view it as one of the most effective and important mechanisms used to monitor the human rights situation of States. We believe that it is essential to interrogate and, where necessary, improve the extent to which the consideration of a gender perspective has been integrated into this process.

The attainment of gender equality is a goal the Maldives has taken concrete steps towards through the Government's promotion of gender equality. We hope that the panel today will assist us and other states to adopt the good practices to dispel the still-existing disparity in the systems. We fully appreciate that the identification of foreseeable challenges and the successful implementation of measures is intrinsic to supporting States accomplish this, and we further believe that such mechanisms will enable more rigorous, comprehensive and extensive assessments by the Council and in the UPR itself.

I thank you, Mr. President.