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**Statement by Ambassador Iruthisham Adam, Permanent Representative of the
Maldives to the United Nations**

UPR of Haiti, 13 October 2011

Thank you, Madam President

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Haiti, a fellow Small Island Developing State, to this 12th session of the UPR working group. We thank the Haitian authorities willingness to actively participate in this dialogue, despite the difficult circumstances.

Even before January 2010 earthquake, Haiti faced significant challenges in promoting and protecting human rights. The earthquake and its subsequent problems did only compound already existing challenges. While we make this statement, we are fully aware of this and we trust that this working group will understand and appreciate this fact as it conducts the review.

One of the most serious issues in Haiti is discrimination and violence against women. We note that the 2005 decree on sexual assault has increased the amount of rape proceedings and that is certainly a step in the right direction. We also note that after the earthquake, the government has taken some positive steps to combat violence against women in IDP camps. But we note that, the full extent of violence against women in Haiti, is yet to be documented.

Madam President,

The issue of "street children", reported that child labor and the state of children in IDP camps remain a concern. In this regard the Maldives would like to know what steps are being taken to tackle this issue and what international assistance do authorities envisage would be helpful in this regard?

Secondly, as natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes are quite common in Haiti and it is very much under pressure from the adverse effects of climate change. The Maldives would like to inquire if the authorities intend on taking an inclusive approach towards economic and developmental activities, including the reconstruction efforts.

Finally, we would wish to acknowledge the judicial reform which Haitian authorities had committed to. We believe that the completion of the process is crucial and would immensely help Haitian efforts to promote and protect the rights of the Haitian people.

Madam President,

With the above, the Maldives, in a spirit of cordiality and cooperation, would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Haiti.

1. Establish a National Human Rights Institution
2. Ratify Convention Against Torture and its Optional Protocol to and set up a National Preventive Mechanism accordingly
3. Seek technical expertise and to work with OHCHR to prepare a Common Core Document that would alleviate its treaty-reporting burden
4. To undertake a serious and credible study on the extent of violence against women, particularly the impact of humanitarian crisis on the issue, with a view to develop meaningful strategies to curb and eradicate violence against women

I thank you, Mr. President.