

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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

**23rd Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review
2 - 13 November 2015, Geneva**

**Review of Lebanon
2 November 2015**

**Statement by Ms. Geela Ali, Minister / Chargé d'affaires, a.i.,
Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the distinguished delegation of Lebanon led by....., and would like to express its appreciation for its national report and its constructive engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process. The Maldives takes positive note of the implementation of the recommendations it received during its first cycle.

The Maldives commends and praises the strenuous efforts of the Government of Lebanon in accepting the over two million refugees from the neighbouring States of Syria and Palestine. The Maldives fully understands the difficulties faced by Lebanon towards the promotion and protection of human rights, especially in preparing the periodic reports, due to this burden.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Guarantee free, obligatory and quality education for all children
2. Strengthen measures towards the integration of children with disabilities into formal education mechanisms

The Maldives congratulates Lebanon for its launch of both The National Human Rights Plan (2014 – 2019) as well as the National Plan for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities in 2012.

The Maldives also takes positive note of the progress made by Lebanon in working towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, which must be considered an essential step in the development and advancement of any society. In this regard, we appreciate the adoption of Act No. 293 on “Protection of women and other family members from domestic violence” and the several actions taken including the launch of national campaign in 2012 and the media programmes to promote women’s political participation.

Finally, we welcome the advances in both the health and education sectors in the country, which the Maldives considers of fundamental importance.

We wish the delegation of Lebanon the best during this review.

Thank you Mr. President.