



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

Review of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea
25th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review
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Statement by:

Mr. Jeffrey Salim Waheed,

Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives extends a warm welcome to the delegation from the Independent State of Papua New Guinea to this review, led by our distinguished colleague Fred Sarufa, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations and Chargé d' Affairs. My delegation offers its warm thanks for the comprehensive presentation provided and welcomes the national report. We further welcome efforts made to implement the recommendations that Papua New Guinea received during its first cycle.

As a fellow Small Island Developing State (SIDS) the Maldives understands the inherent difficulties presented by the effects of climate change, and the strains that these effects place upon governing institutions. In addition to its consistent international advocacy, we commend Papua New Guinea for their efforts at the national level as well, including through the Climate Change Management Act of 2015 and initiatives such as the REDD-Plus initiative aimed at protecting the country's forests.

The effects of climate change most affects the world's most vulnerable. Ensuring their protection is the global responsibility of every nation, and we are pleased to see Papua New Guinea make efforts to meet this obligation. With gender based violence one of the nation's biggest challenges, we commend the criminalization of such violence, the mainstreaming of gender policies, the creation of domestic violence and family support centers and the initiatives presented here today to create a zero-tolerance environment for gender-based violence.

We further commend the repeal of the sorcery act of 1971 and efforts on this issue, including the formulation of the National Action Plan Against Sorcery and Witchcraft-related Violence (SNAP).

With a view to strengthening current achievements and initiatives, the Maldives makes the following recommendations:

- 1) To finalize the establishment of a national human rights institution, that is independent and empowered to provide national leadership and monitoring of the domestic human rights situation;
- 2) To train public servants in the human rights responsibilities and obligations of Governing structures.

The Maldives wishes the Independent State of Papua New Guinea all success during this review.

Thank you Mr. President.