



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

**Statement to be delivered by
H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam, Ambassador/Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Maldives to the 14th Session of the Working Group on
Universal Periodic Review,
on the Review of Sri Lanka
Thursday, 1 November 2012 (Afternoon)**

Thank you Madam President,

The Maldives would like to welcome the distinguished delegation of Sri Lanka.

The Maldives, as its close neighbour, understands the enormous challenges faced by Sri Lanka, subsequent to the 30 years of conflict, which has resulted in the loss of several thousands of lives and caused extensive damage to public infrastructure and to private property. The Maldives understands that there must be accountability for violations of human rights committed by all sides. In this regard, we welcome Sri Lanka's "National Plan of Action to implement the recommendations of the LLRC". It is a critically important step taken in the right direction, and we applaud the progress that has been made to date. The Maldives also recognises that, despite having to divert significant proportion of resources towards ending the conflict, Sri Lanka has recorded impressive achievements in social and economic indicators, including the MDGs.

Nevertheless, as with all countries, there is always room for improvement and with this in mind, the Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To continue its efforts of implementing the recommendations of the National Action Plan and the LLRC.
2. To ensure structural and operational independence of the national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles
3. Ratify at the earliest the OP-CAT.

I thank you Madam President.