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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 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on Universal  
Periodic Review, on the Review of Bahamas  
Wednesday, 23 January 2013 (Afternoon)**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to welcome the distinguished delegation of Bahamas, a fellow Small Island Developing State (SIDS). It is noteworthy to mention the wide range of consultation held inter-Ministerial and with the civil society in the compilation of the National Report.

Mr. President,

We congratulate Bahamas for its achievements in consolidating human rights since its last review. We particularly welcome ratification of ICCPR and ICESR. We also welcome steps taken by the government of Bahamas on areas of gender empowerment and countering human trafficking.

As a SIDS, the Bahamas is confronted with constraints in its capacity to enforce and report on its Treaty obligations as a party. The Maldives calls upon the international community to extend technical assistance to Bahamas, in its efforts to conduct training, awareness programmes and consolidation of its national human rights framework.

Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To establish a national human rights institution

2. To ratify Convention Against Torture and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT)

3. To sign and ratify Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

I thank you.