



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

**17th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Geneva, 21 October – 1 November 2013**

**Review of Congo
30 October 2013**

**Statement by Mr. Javed Faizal, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to warmly welcome the delegation of the Republic of the Congo to the 17th Session of the UPR, and express its appreciation for Congo's engagement with the Council and its mechanisms. We also thank the delegation of Congo for the presentation of their national report.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations;

First, to adopt legal measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls, including legislation concerning the right of ownership, sharing, and inheritance of land for women.

Second, to make further efforts to establish a national mechanism to prevent and prohibit the use torture.

Third, to ratify to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which it signed in 2008.

Mr. President,

The Maldives encourages the Government of the Congo, to prioritize the domestication of core international human rights instruments, especially the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We also appreciate Congo's efforts in addressing the issue of violence against women and takes note of the positive steps taken in that direction. However, the level of on-going discrimination in the daily lives of women in the country is a cause of concern for my delegation.



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Even though Congo is a state party to the Convention Against Torture, we note that the use of torture is widespread, no inquiries have been held on these violations and the perpetrators remain at large. In order to address these challenges, we encourage that a specific law, and an explicit definition of torture be adopted as soon as possible.

Finally, let me express our deepest thanks for the Congolese delegation for actively participating in this review, and we wish them all the best in the implementation of the agreed recommendations.