



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

**17th Session of Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Geneva, 21 October – 01 November 2013**

**Review of Malta
30 October 2013**

**Statement by Ms. Rishfa Rasheed, First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Mr President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Malta and express appreciation for its engagement at this review.

Mr President,

Maldives is happy to note the steps taken by Malta towards the recognition and the opportunities for disabled persons, especially the policies introduced to encourage inclusion. However, key issues still need to be addressed in order to improve the daily life of people with disabilities, such as addressing the lack of practical and financial support for independent living options (in-home, residential and community services) for disabled persons as it implies significant barriers to social inclusion and independence.

Mr President,

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To strengthen its efforts to promote direct funding and develop a range of living options for persons with disabilities.
2. To make every possible effort in order to reduce the detention period of asylum seekers, especially regarding unaccompanied children and pregnant women, and treat them with the most proper manner.
3. To prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment of children, as this is a key obligation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments.

Finally, let me once again express our appreciation to the delegation of Malta for their constructive participation and we wish them all the best in the implementation of the agreed recommendations.

I thank you Mr President.