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

19th Session of Universal Periodic Review Working Group
Geneva, 28 April – 09 May 2014

Review of Brunei Darussalam, 2 May 2014

Statement by HE Ms. Iruthisham Adam,
Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Mr President.

The Maldives extends a warm welcome to the distinguished delegation of Brunei Darussalam, a fellow member of the OIC.

The Maldives would like to commend the positive engagement Brunei Darussalam in the UPR process and its commitment to improving the living conditions and protecting the human rights of its citizens.

The Maldives would like to make two recommendations for Brunei Darussalam's consideration:

- To strengthen efforts to promote empowerment of women and gender equality with the objective of increasing their participation in decision-making,
- To strengthen the legislative framework to reflect the provisions of international law on protection of children; and

The Maldives is pleased to note that the Legislative Council now includes 2 women members. My delegation also commends the work done by the Government to achieve the MDGs.

Taking into account the constraints faced by Brunei as noted in their national report, the Maldives takes this opportunity to encourage the international community to provide the necessary assistance to Brunei to overcome these challenges, especially to protect and safeguard its cultural heritage, as outlined also by UNESCO.

We wish the delegation of Brunei Darussalam all the success in this review.

Thank you Mr President.