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*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Seychelles to the
United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva*

**THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES: TWENTY SECOND SESSION –
6TH MAY 2015**

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. SELBY PILLAY, AMBASSADOR OF SEYCHELLES TO BELGIUM AND THE EU

**AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES TO THE
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA**

Thank you Mr. President,

Seychelles would like to warmly welcome the delegation of Maldives to this 22nd Session of the UPR working group.

We congratulate Maldives and recognise their efforts in producing this report, which is no mean achievement for a SIDS like ours considering the many challenges we face in terms of limited human resources, size and capacity constraints.

Seychelles and Maldives being both Small Island Developing States are prone to the devastating effects of climate changes.

The Government of Seychelles commends the great step taken by Maldives towards a rights-based approach in order to protect the environment and combat climate change, as well as properly manage the human dimension of climate change.

As clearly portrayed in the report, we should not neglect to recognize the *efforts* and any positive progress that Maldives have made in the *broader* Human Rights scheme thus far. As the international community, we should endeavour to continue encouraging Maldives to improve on any deficiencies, and to resolutely engage in addressing their outstanding challenges.

Seychelles is pleased to note the steps taken by Maldives in order to further enhance and develop the education system to guarantee the enjoyment of the right to education, with the drafting of the Education Bill which has been submitted to Parliament in August 2014. We further applaud Maldives which is also in the process of formulating the Higher Education Bill which is to be sent to its Parliament later this year.

Taking the above into consideration, and recognising the fact that there is always room for improvement, Seychelles would like to make the following recommendations:

1. The enactment as soon as possible of the Education Bill;
2. To consider identifying the priority sectors where Maldives faces lack of trained and qualified professional and seek technical assistance and capacity building from the international community.

I thank you for your attention.