



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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UPR of the MALDIVES

Mr. President,

Slovenia welcomes the criminalization of domestic violence and marital rape in the Maldives, and commends the country for its leadership in the area of climate change and human rights and the environment. We welcome the ratification of the Rome Statute and the signing of OP-ICESCR and OP-CRC-IC, *in line with our past recommendation no.12*. We hope the government will proceed towards the ratification of the two optional protocols as soon as possible.

We are, however, concerned about reports regarding serious limitations on freedom of religion or belief, improper functioning of the judicial system, impunity for attacks on journalists and human rights defenders, the decline in press freedom and freedom of expression, and the continued discrimination of women in law and in practice.

We continue to **recommend** the withdrawal of reservations to CEDAW, ICCPR and CRC. We also reiterate our previous **recommendations** no. 56<sup>1</sup> and 103<sup>2</sup>.

In addition, we'd like to offer the following **recommendations**:

- to repeal all legal provisions that discriminate against women;
- to decriminalize consensual extra-marital sexual relations;
- to abolish flogging and other forms of corporal punishment, and ensure that survivors of sexual violence are not prosecuted for fornication;
- to establish and enforce explicit legal protection against FGM.

Thank you.

<sup>1</sup> Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty. (Slovenia)

<sup>2</sup> Create an environment of freedom of the media, and encourage media to project positive images of women and of the equal status and responsibilities of women and men in the private and public spheres. (Slovenia)