

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT
THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

Wednesday 6th May, 2015, 14.30-18.00

Time for speakers: 1 minute 10 seconds

Thank you Mr. President

Mr. President, Trinidad and Tobago joins other delegations in welcoming the delegation of the Republic of Maldives, led by the Honourable Minister and in doing so, takes the opportunity to congratulate the Maldivian people on their 50th anniversary of Independence, which will be celebrated in July this year. For my delegation, undergoing its UPR in the year of its golden anniversary of Independence should not be viewed as a mere coincidence for the Maldives; it should be seen as an opportunity to reflect on the role of the promotion and protection of human rights in consolidating democracy and giving true meaning to being an Independent nation.

My delegation acknowledges the developments of the human rights situation in the Maldives since its initial review in November 2010. Noteworthy initiatives include: (1) the establishment of the Ministry of Law and Gender; (2) the formulation of the Climate Change Policy Framework; and (3) the implementation of the "No Child Left Behind" education policy.

In commending the Maldives for its human rights accomplishments and bearing in mind the hallmarks of a strong democracy and the link to the full enjoyment of human rights for all Maldivians, Trinidad and Tobago makes the following recommendations:

- (i) take measures to ensure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary; and,
- (ii) take measures aimed at preventing threats and intimidation against journalists and civil society, as well as opponents of the Government

In conclusion, my delegation wishes the Maldives a successful review.

Thank you