

Delivered by: Mr. Daw Penjo, PR/ Ambassador.

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**Statement by Bhutan**

**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (Republic of Maldives), Twenty-second session 4-15 May 2015**

Mr. President,

Bhutan warmly welcomes the delegation of the Maldives, led by H.E.....and congratulate them for presenting a comprehensive report on implementation of the recommendations received during their first review and the additional efforts to further strengthen the human rights normative framework.

We are pleased to note the initiatives in the area of education which is a fundamental human right. The policy of 'no child left behind' indicating inclusive education opens up the door to opportunities, empowerment, freedom and lays the foundation for changing the state of human rights in the world.

Further, the measures undertaken to enhance and promote gender equality and the advancement of women are highly appreciative. Efforts to empower women to eliminate barriers to employment and participation in the political sphere are laudable.

Finally, we would like to commend the government of the Maldives for their continuing efforts to bring the issue of climate change to the international forefront and offer the following recommendation for consideration:

Take measures to eradicate traditional serotypes of women, especially through educational programs and enactment of legislation on domestic violence and all forms of sexual abuse.

I thank you Mr. President.