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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 22ND SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA AT THE SECOND CYCLE REVIEW OF MALDIVES, WEDNESDAY, 6TH MAY, 2015

Thank you, Mr. President.

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation from Maldives to the second cycle review of the UPR and commends the significant economic, social and political strides made since the first cycle review, in spite of the many challenges it faces.

Notable among the many achievements are the passing of the anti-violence act of 2012; the removal, by parliament, of the gender bar on running for the presidency and the draft bill on Gender Equality

Ghana however, is concerned about the case initiated by the Supreme Court of Maldives against five (5) members of the Human Rights Commission of Maldives and wishes to call upon the Supreme Court of Maldives to rescind its decision on this matter in the interest of the promotion and the protection human rights in Maldives.

Ghana notes the concerns expressed by the Human Rights Committee and recommends that Maldives removes the legal requirement which prevents non-Muslims from being appointed as members of the Human Rights Commission of Maldives.

In this regard, Ghana Makes the following two recommendations:

1. amendment of discriminatory provisions in the Constitution which requires all to be Muslims, and recommends that Maldives expedites the enactment of the anti-discriminatory act before its Parliament.
2. Take the necessary steps to strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary
3. Take steps to promote religious dialogue on issues that affect women's human rights and the implementation of laws tackling violence against women.

In conclusion, Ghana wishes Maldives well in this second cycle review.

I thank you Mr. President.

Minister-Counsellor
Ghana Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva
56, Rue de Moillebeau, 1209
Tel: +4122 919 04 50
Fax +4122 734 9161
website: www.ghanamission.ch