**(Mrs Ismini Panagopoulou**

**First Secretary)**

**UPR 22nd Session**

**(Geneva, 06.05.15)**

**Review Maldives**

**Intervention by Greece**

**Thank you Mr. President,**

**We would like to welcome the Delegation of the State of Maldives to the 22nd UPR Session and note with appreciation the progress achieved in promoting human rights. We welcome the positive actions taken by the Government to implement UPR recommendations since its first UPR cycle and note with appreciation the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, eight fundamental ILO Conventions and the adoption of the Anti-Torture Act in 2013.**

**We commend the State of Maldives on the preparation of the draft gender equality law which seeks to increase compliance of domestic legislation with CEDAW and increase women’s participation in all spheres.**

**We would also like to express our appreciation on the Government’ s ratification of the Right to Information Act in 2014 which led to the establishment of a commissioner of Information and installed information officers in government offices to promote good governance and transparency.**

**Greece would like to make the following recommendations:**

1. **To strengthen efforts in implementing the rights and obligations towards the empowerment of women found in CEDAW.**
2. **To withdraw the reservation to Article 18 of the ICCPR**
3. **To strengthen efforts to protect the freedom of expression, including safety of journalists.**

**Finally, we would like to wish every success to the Delegation of Maldives in their ongoing efforts to further protect and promote human rights in their country. We wish them a successful UPR.**

**Thank you Mr. President**