



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**24th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review
18 - 29 January 2016, Geneva**

**Review of Singapore
27 January 2016**

**Statement by Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva**

Check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives extends a warm welcome to the high level delegation from the Republic of Singapore to this review, led by the distinguished Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Maldives expresses its appreciation for today's presentation, and takes note of the the national report, and implementation of the recommendations Singapore received during its first cycle.

The Maldives welcomes Singapore's ratification of CRPD in 2013, signature of I-CERD, and accession to the UN TiP Protocol in September 2015. The Maldives also commends the efforts in strengthening the national legislation on Trafficking in Persons.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1) Continue and strengthen efforts to integrate children with disabilities to mainstream education system
- 2) Encourage women's political participation and increase representation of women in decision making

The Maldives appreciates the measures taken by Singapore to support parenthood, and also to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups in society.

The Maldives commends the many initiatives taken by Singapore to enhance social protection and strengthen social harmony among its people. We applaud the distinct world class education system of Singapore and the significant investments, specifically the Skills Future programme launched in 2015 for life-long learning. The Maldives also commends Singapore's universal healthcare scheme "MediShield Life" in 2015 to provide basic health insurance protection for life for all Singaporeans and Permanent Residents.

To conclude, the Maldives appreciates the role Singapore has played in advocating for Small States and the progress that Singapore has made is a prime example of the level of development we can all achieve.

We wishes the delegation of Singapore all the success during this review.

Thank you Mr. President.