

**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 36th Session (02-13 November 2020): 3rd UPR of Maldives - Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Shri Pawan Badhe, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India [Geneva, 04 November 2020]**

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Maldives and thanks the delegation for presenting its National Report. The report highlights the progress made by Maldives in the last four years in development and protection of human rights, despite the limited resources and constraints in technical capacities within its governance framework.

2. India appreciates Maldives for its efforts towards democratic transition and to bring in the changes envisaged in its new Constitution adopted in 2008. India also appreciates efforts by Maldives to restore rule of law and democratic values, promoting and protecting human rights and strengthening the governance system in the country.

3. India makes the following recommendations to Maldives,

 (i) Continue prioritizing empowerment of women at all levels, and make efforts to ensure gender equality and effective protection of women.

(ii) Continue taking steps to strengthen the legal framework for protection of children and rights of Child.

(iii) Take further steps towards enhancing freedom of expression and freedom of press.

4. India acknowledges the challenges and constraints faced by Maldives and remains committed to extend all possible assistance to Maldives in this endeavour.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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