**UPR36**

**Recommendations by Canada for the Maldives’ UPR**

**4 November 2020**

Thank you, Madam President.

Canada welcomes the progress Maldives has made in increasing women’s representation in government and in the judiciary.

Canada recommends that Maldives:

1. Withdraw all reservations to article 16 of Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) before the convention’s 45th anniversary in 2024.
2. Strengthen access to justice for victims of gender-based violence, investigate all allegations of sexual violence in a timely manner, bring perpetrators to justice and provide training to law enforcement and the judiciary on how to properly interact with possible victims and manage cases accordingly.
3. **Ensure and protect the safety, rights and liberty of human rights defenders and CSOs and promptly investigate, prosecute and punish threats or acts of violence against them.**
4. Increase and expand human rights training for law enforcement and correctional services officers.

Canada welcomes the steps taken to strengthen the independence of the judiciary and encourages the Government of Maldives to continue its efforts to fulfil this commitment.