

Republic of the Marshall Islands

STATEMENT by Samuel K. Jr. Lanwi, Deputy Permanent Representative

36th Session, Universal Periodic Review

Interactive Dialogue: MALDIVES

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*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam/Mr. (Vice) President.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands cordially welcomes the delegation of Maldives and thank them for the comprehensive presentation of their third UPR report. We note with appreciation the good progress that the Maldives has undertaken since its last review.

We commend the Maldives for its initiation of the ‘Climate Smart Resilient Islands Initiative’ as a solution for SIDS to enhance climate resilience through pragmatic and holistic measures. While the Maldives took encouraging steps to address the effects of climate change and investigating past attacks on journalists and activists, more should be done to deliver on its commitments to uphold freedom of expression, protect human rights defenders, and combat hate speech.

With these in mind and in the spirit of constructive engagement, we offer the following recommendations for consideration by the Maldives:

1. Allocate adequate human and financial resources to actualize the 2012 Domestic Violence Prevention Act;
2. Implement legislation to protect migrant workers from xenophobic and racial discrimination;
3. Abolish child marriages; and
4. Abolish the death penalty

In closing, we wish the Maldives every success during this review and implementation of all accepted recommendations.

Kommol tata and thank you.