

**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations and UN Agencies in Geneva**

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**Review of Maldives**

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Thank you, Madam President,

Vanuatu warmly welcomes the delegation of Maldives to this review and thanks for the comprehensive presentation today.

Vanuatu notes and commends the Government of Maldives for the several and positive steps taken in promoting and protecting human rights.

In this regard, Vanuatu wishes to recommend to Maldives:

1. First, to reconsider its reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (on article 18 – freedom of thought, conscience and religion) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (on all clauses related to adoption and article 14.1 - freedom of thought, conscience and religion);
2. Second, to accede and to implement the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Stateless and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

We wish Maldives every success at this Review.

Thank you, Madam President.