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## Statements made by State under review at the HRC under item 6 after the adoption of the UPR report

**Country:** Maldives (First Cycle, 2010)

**Date of the statement:** 23rd HRC session - 10 June 2013

"Since its UPR review, the Maldives has ratified the ILOs core convention in January 2013 and acceded to the Rome Statute in September 2011. It also signed the CRC's Optional Protocol on Communications procedure in February 2012 and now currently going through the domestic procedures needed for ratification. Work is currently underway to sign the only remaining core human rights convention namely the Convention on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families. In addition to this, the Maldives has also engaged in acceding to the Optional Protocol to Prevent Trafficking in Persons at the earliest possible opportunity. The Maldives has already submitted its plenary national reports on CEDAW and CRC while its initial report to CRPD is already drafted and is being reviewed by various institutions of the state. Mr. President protecting the rights of the child, particularly that of the girl child, has always been a top priority. In April 2013, the president created a committee to identify the gaps within the system and make recommendations to the president. In May 2013, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, Ms. Martha Santos Pais, visited Maldives as part of the on-going engagement with human rights mechanisms. Her recommendations along with the presidential committee will further strengthen system-wide efforts to protect the rights of the child. In addition, a Juvenile Justice Bill and a revised Children's Rights Bill are in the last stages of drafting and will be submitted to the parliament in mid-2013. On women's rights, a Domestic Violence Act was ratified in 2012. In addition, a Sexual Harassment Bill and a Sexual Offences Bill were also drafted in mid-2012 and submitted to the parliament. The Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights is also drafting a bill on gender equality. In August 2010, the Maldives adopted its first Disability Act fully in line with CRPD. A Disability Council as mandated by that was constructed to implement the act. The government also introduced a pension scheme for the disabled and a national policy on disability is being finalized which will be launched in July 2013. A key area of recommendations also touched upon strengthening the institutional capacity in protecting and promoting human rights. Just this session, the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers presented her report on her mission to Maldives. The government is examining her recommendations with a will to implement them. A Legal Profession Bill is being drafted with UNDP assistance which will also create an independent Bar Association. Mr. President I also wish to report to this Council on efforts on counter trafficking. An Anti-Trafficking Bill is in the final stages in the parliament. While these are just three steps taken on the implementation of Maldives' UPR recommendations, I wish to announce that as voluntarily committed in 2012 we will circulate a mid-term report in 2013."



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