

HRCM Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of the Maldives, April –May 2015 (22nd session) September 2014

ANNEX 1: Consultation Process

Process

To prepare this report HRCM analyzed the developments detailed in the report prepared by the government of Maldives on “mid-term assessment of implementation of UPR”. Based on this preliminary analysis along existing in-house monitoring data HRCM identified 18 thematic areas to focus. The in-house monitoring data comprises of the internal reports compiled, status of implementation of concluding observations by treaty bodies to the State along with number of atoll monitoring trips conducted during this reporting period.

Accordingly, questionnaires were developed and shared with concerned state authorities with an objective to acquire information on implementation status of the recommendations from the 1st UPR review. The evaluation of the preliminary data obtained from these questionnaires were once gain reviewed with aforementioned in-house monitoring data to outline a set of interview questions for the series of stakeholder consultations planned. Subsequently, the series of meeting with the stakeholders facilitated a constructive dialogue on the implementation of the UPR recommendations and it also provided a better insight into the human rights situation of the country.

In the mean time HRCM also facilitated meetings with number of nongovernmental organizations to identify the key civil society organizations reporting to UPR and their thematic areas. This was following a one day workshop facilitated by UN Maldives Resident Coordinator’s office. Series of consultations were held with civil society organizations with an objective to corroborate the information acquired from the questionnaires and meetings held with state authorities. During these consultations HRCM encouraged the NGOs to make individual or joint submissions for UPR.

Findings from the aforementioned diverse group of consultations held, HRCM compiled the report and it was shared with stakeholders including civil society organizations to ensure maximum participation from all state actors. All stakeholders were given a time frame to comment to this report and HRCM incorporated as many comments possible before circulating with all internal departments of this institution for a final remark.

Advantages

The process helps in addressing the most concerning human rights issues in the country. Thorough the process of reporting HRCM was able to build a rapport with civil society and help and encourage the civil society participate in the UPR process. Furthermore, the workshop facilitated by UN Maldives Resident Coordinator’s office has contributed to the knowledge of the UPR process among HRMC staff as well as civil society. The HRCM is also represented in the Standing Committee, established by the government to monitor implementation of UPR recommendations.

Setbacks

The information gaps within state institutions; delay in responding to the questionnaires formulated by HRCM to acquire information for this report, along with different levels cooperation from state authorizes can be regarded as challenges faced during this process.

Way forward

The steering committee established by the government to oversee the UPR process needs to be revived with wider representation from all sectors of the state such as the parliament, judiciary and diverse group of civil society organizations. This committee needs to be convened quarterly to maximize the discourse on the implementation of the recommendations.