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Human Rights Commission of the Maldives
Republic of Maldives

Written Submission of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives on Good Practices in the Third and Fourth UPR Cycles and Suggested Innovations for the Fifth Cycle

Submitted to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Human Rights Commissions of the Maldives (HRCM)
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Male', Republic of Maldives

1. Introduction

The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM), the National Human Rights Institution of the Republic of Maldives, is pleased to submit this contribution in response to the request by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for written inputs on good practices during the third and fourth cycles of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and suggestions for strengthening National Human Rights Institution engagement in the fifth cycle. This submission outlines HRCM's practices in monitoring, reporting, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement throughout the UPR cycle, as well as proposed innovations to further enhance effectiveness and participation.

2. Good Practices During the Third and Fourth UPR Cycles

2.1 Implementation of UPR recommendations

The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) closely monitors the efforts of stakeholders, the challenges they face, and the activities planned to implement the UPR recommendations. The implementation status of each recommendation is evaluated using the criteria outlined in the table below. Recommendations are systematically followed prior to the submission of HRCM's report for each UPR cycle.

Criteria used to evaluate status of implementation		
Score	**Indicator**	**Status**
100	**Implemented**	Recommendation fully implemented
75	**Positive progress**	50% of the recommendation implemented/completed
50	**Adequate Progress**	Initiated the implementation of the recommendations in the Action Plan/ Annual Work Plan
		Standard Operating Procedures/Administrative codes endorsed

25	**Nominal Development**	Recommendation included in the endorsed action plan
		Recommendation included in the Annual Work Plan
		Budget allocated to implement the recommendations
0	**No Progress**	No progress
		Recommendation rejected/ Not willing to implement the recommendations
0	**No information received/further information required**	No information received/further information required

2.2 Advocacy and Awareness-Raising

Following the publication of the Report of the Working Group, HRCM conducts a UPR stakeholder forum. The forum aims to disseminate information on the recommendations made to the State during the UPR cycle. HRCM undertakes a recommendation mapping process to identify the relevant authorities responsible for implementing each of the recommendations accepted by the Maldives, and the forum is attended by these stakeholders. The Report of the Working Group on the UPR, along with the forum's outcome report, is shared with the participants of the forum.

2.3 Participation in Government Consultations

Prior to the review, HRCM participates in Government-held consultations and contributes to the State report by providing comments, technical input, and relevant data derived from cases investigated by the Commission. HRCM shares information on key human rights concerns identified through its complaints mechanism, monitoring activities, and thematic work to ensure that the State report reflects factual developments and existing challenges**.**

2.4 Written Submission for the Summary of Stakeholder Information

Process of Compiling the UPR Report

a) Selection of Thematic Areas

The thematic areas of the UPR report are prioritized through a top-down approach, whereby recommendations from the UPR and concluding observations issued by UN human rights treaty bodies are analyzed to determine the relative significance of the human rights issues identified. This analysis is further corroborated with HRCM's annual investigation statistics to validate the identified concerns. Following the identification of thematic areas, a bottom-up approach is applied to further assess and refine priority areas based on ground-level realities.

b) Field Visits (Atoll Monitoring Visits)

Field visits are conducted to acquire and verify the implementation status of UPR recommendations covering the selected thematic areas of the report. Information from the UPR follow-up document, along

with other in-house monitoring data and available statistics, is used as reference material in selecting locations (atolls) for the field study.

To obtain information from diverse sources, representatives of various State institutions in the islands and atolls are consulted. Concurrently, focus group discussions are held with women, parents, migrant workers in the private sector, schools, island-based NGOs, youth, Island Councils, health facilities, Magistrate Courts, and other relevant stakeholders. A report is compiled based on the observations and findings from these field visits.

To strengthen the analysis, an online questionnaire is utilized to gather additional data. This tool collects insights and feedback from participants in focus group discussions as well as residents of the islands visited. The primary aim of the questionnaire is to obtain quantitative data reflecting the experiences and perspectives of individuals directly affected by human rights issues.

c) Report Compilation

The report is compiled based on issues identified through field visit reports, consultations with civil society organizations, the UPR follow-up document, and existing in-house monitoring data. The in-house monitoring data includes internal reports such as annual reports, assessments of compliance of national legislation with international human rights law, implementation status of treaty body concluding observations, and findings from field monitoring visits.

d) Validation of Information

The draft submission is shared with relevant Government authorities and civil society organizations to ensure broad participation and transparency. Stakeholders and members of civil society are provided with a designated timeframe to submit comments, and HRCM incorporates all relevant and feasible feedback into the final report.

2.5. Participation in the Adoption of UPR Outcomes

If budget is provided, HRCM delivers an oral statement and actively participates in the adoption process of the UPR outcome.

3. Suggested Innovations for the Fifth UPR Cycle

a) Establishment of a National UPR Implementation and Monitoring Platform

This can be a publicly accessible digital mechanism designed to systematically track the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations. The platform would list all recommendations under thematic categories and indicate their status using a simple traffic-light system (implemented, in progress, or no measurable progress). Each recommendation would be linked to the responsible government institution, ensuring clarity in institutional accountability.

The platform would be updated periodically based on verifiable evidence such as legislative developments, policy reforms, budget allocations, monitoring visit findings, and complaint data collected by the NHRI. While implementation remains the responsibility of the State, the NHRI can independently assess and

publish progress updates, thereby strengthening its monitoring mandate. In addition, a structured mid-term update could be generated from the platform and voluntarily submitted to the UPR as a progress report between review cycles.

To enhance inclusivity, the mechanism could also allow for structured input from civil society organizations, particularly on issues affecting vulnerable or marginalized communities