



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives  
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**Statement by H E Ms. Iruthisham Adam**  
**Interactive Debate with the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar**  
12 March 2012

Thank you Madam President,

The Maldives would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his report.

The report highlights the remarkable progress achieved in Myanmar since the last time we held a dialogue with the mandate-holder. That progress has included steps on freedom of expression, on freeing political prisoners, and on paving the way to free and fair elections.

The Maldives warmly welcomes these and other steps, and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Government, as well as opposition politicians and NGOs for securing these improvements.

Madam President,

Having said the above, it is necessary to acknowledge that there are still serious violations taking place and much more work needs to be done both to secure accountability for individual cases, and to set a better national legislative framework for human rights protection. However, when there are positive developments, it is important to recognize it. It is also important for this Council and the international community to work with Myanmar to help with the reforms it has initiated.

The Maldives hopes that the Council's resolution on Myanmar will fully reflect progress in the country, while also expressing continued concern in areas where Myanmar has fallen below international standards. We hope that the mandate will continue and will act as a focal point for international support for the reform program.

Thank you