

**Maldives – Mid-term Assessment of
Implementation**

**Universal Periodic Review Recommendations
(A/HRC/16/7)**

Cluster	Number	Recommendation	Status of Implementation
Treaties	100.1	Consider acceding to ICRMW (Bosnia and Herzegovina);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting the rights of migrant workers is a policy priority of the Government. The decision to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant workers is under consideration, and the Government would complete the necessary legal formalities in the near future
	100.2	Accelerate the process of the ratification of ICRMW (Algeria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to recommendation number 100.1
	100.3	Consider the ratification of ICRMW and the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Philippines);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to recommendation 100.1 The Government is completing the internal processes required for the ratification of the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children
	100.4	Ratify promptly the Optional Protocol to ICESCR and the Optional Protocol to CRPD (Spain);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Maldives plans to accede to the protocols
	100.5	Sign and/or ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR; the Optional Protocol to ICESR; ICRMW; the Optional Protocol to CRPD; and the International Convention for the Protection of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Maldives did not accept the recommendation to sign/ratify the second optional Protocol to ICCPR Maldives Plan to accede to Optional Protocol to ICESR and CRPD The Maldives is completing the necessary internal process to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all

	All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);	<p>persons from enforced disappearance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.1
100.6	Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, prohibiting the death penalty in all circumstances (France);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maldives did not accept the recommendation to sign/ratify the second optional Protocol to ICCPR
100.7	Ratify ICRMW, taking into account national consultations held in this connection (Mexico);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.1
100.8	Ratify ICRMW in order to enhance the full enjoyment of human rights (Palestine);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.1
100.9	Ratify ICRMW, ensuring that the rights to freedom of religion or belief of all migrant workers and members of their families are respected, inter alia (Ecuador);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.1
100.10	Consider ratifying ILO core conventions, the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol thereto, and the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight core ILO conventions have been ratified by the Maldives on 4 January 2013

		trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Brazil);	
100.11		Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol thereto (Ecuador);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maldives ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 21 September 2011
100.12		Ratify outstanding core international human rights instruments, and accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Slovenia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.11 • The Maldives has also already ratified seven core human rights treaties
100.13		Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.11
100.14		Consider reviewing and withdrawing reservations to ICCPR and other core human rights instruments, particularly where such reservations work to undermine the commitment to non-discrimination included in these treaties (Hungary);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Maldives, by a cabinet decision on 9th April 2013, has reformulated its existing reservations to Article 18 of ICCPR. These modifications have now been submitted to the parliament for approval. The reformulated reservation is as follows: “The Government of Maldives expresses its reservation to the references in paragraph 1 of Article 18 relating to the right to freedom of religion, and paragraph 2 of Article 18 of the

			<p>Covenant, since the Constitution and the Laws of the Republic of Maldives state that all Maldivians should be Muslims and the State religion is Islam.”</p>
	100.15	<p>Review reservations to CEDAW, ICCPR and CRC with a view to withdrawing or limiting them (Slovenia);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Maldives, by a cabinet decision on 9th April 2013, has reformulated its existing reservations to Article 18 of ICCPR and Article 16 of CEDAW. These modifications have now been submitted to the parliament for approval. The reformulated reservations are as follows. <p><u>Proposed Reformulation to Article 18 of ICCPR</u></p> <p>“The Government of Maldives expresses its reservation to the references in paragraph 1 of Article 18 relating to the right to freedom of religion, and paragraph 2 of Article 18 of the Covenant, since the Constitution and the Laws of the Republic of Maldives state that all Maldivians should be Muslims and the State religion is Islam.”</p> <p><u>Proposed Reformulation to Article 16 of CEDAW</u></p> <p>“The Government of Maldives expresses its reservation to Article 16 paragraph (1)(b), (1)(c) and (1)(d) of the Convention as follows:</p> <p>The implementation of Article 16 paragraph (1) (b) of the Convention shall be in accordance with the Maldivian Family Law which requires the consent of the legal guardian for women to enter into marriage. However, the right to enter into marriage and choose a spouse is guaranteed by the exceptions provided in the Law where a</p>

			<p>legal guardian refuses to give consent.</p> <p>The implementation of Article 16 paragraph (1) (c) and paragraph (1) (d) of the Convention shall be subject to the responsibilities of men under Maldivian Family Law which provide that maintenance and financial responsibility of the family is that of the husband during marriage; and in the event of dissolution of marriage, the maintenance and financial responsibility of the children is that of the father. This does not in any way impact the right of child custody of any parent.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Article 16 (2) of CEDAW</u> - Under Article 4 of the Family Act (2000/4), the minimum age of marriage is set at 18. However, if a request for marriage reaches the registrar by a person below 18 years of age, mental and physical capabilities of the person will be taken in to consideration by the registrar before permitting the contract. • Under Article 19 of the Family Act (2000/4) all marriages by Maldivians should be registered.
	100.16	Continue to cooperate with human rights mechanisms and to reconsider their reservations to ICCPR, CEDAW and CRC (Palestine);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.15
	100.17	Make further efforts with a view to withdrawing reservations to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.15

		ICCPR, CEDAW and CRC (Brazil);	
	100.18	Withdraw reservations in respect of article 18 of ICCPR (Austria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.15
	100.19	Withdraw reservations to articles 14 and 21 of CRC as well as to article 18 of ICCPR (Slovakia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maldives is completing the necessary internal processes to comply with this recommendation (withdrawing reservation made under Article 21 CRC)
	100.20	Withdraw reservations to ICCPR, CEDAW and CRC (Spain);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.15
Migrants	100.94	Ensure that all people, including migrants, are allowed to practice their religion or belief freely, including by enacting legislation that explicitly protects the right to freedom of religion or belief (Norway);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 9 of the Constitution provides that all citizens of Maldives shall be Muslims and Article 10(a) states that the State religion is Islam. Article 10(b) further states that no law contrary to any tenet of Islam shall be enacted in the Maldives. As apostasy is forbidden in Islam, the Government cannot accept this recommendation. • Although, Act No. 4/75 forbids certain articles, such as objects that represent religious deities, or objects used in worship (religions other than Islam) from being brought into the country, the laws of the Maldives allows expatriates workers and foreigners the freedom to practice their religion in private. The Government has so far not received any complaints from foreigners residing in Maldives in this regard.

	100.107	<p>Draft and enact legislation prohibiting and punishing all forms of trafficking in persons, including the forced labour of migrants. Promulgate laws imposing stricter punishments for violations, and hold employers who violate laws accountable and establish a national minimum wage (United States);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2011, a draft of an anti human trafficking legislation was drawn up in collaboration with the Australian Attorney General’s Department. The Parliament has held its first reading for the bill and the bill is currently being reviewed by the respective standing committee. • The Government’s decision of transferring the responsibility for issuance of migrant worker visas and quotas from the Ministry of Human Resources to the Department of Immigration and Emigration, and the responsibility for migrant worker policy to the Ministry of Economic Development, signals readiness to start taking action to curtail trafficking in persons • The cabinet endorsed the Anti human Trafficking National Action Plan on 26 February 2013, to this effect a Ministerial Committee was established which is headed by the President’s Office. The Ministerial Committee consists of Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights, Department of Immigration and Emigration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Labour Relations Authority, Maldives Police Service, Attorney General’s Office, Maldives National Defence Force. The anti human trafficking unit was established on the same date and is functioning under the Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights (MGFHR). The MGFHR plays a leading role and coordinates with the above agencies as well as NGOs (Maldivian Democracy Network, Human Rights Commission of the Maldives). The Unit serves as a national coordinating centre with 24hours on-call service as a hotline. The anti-human trafficking unit is to handle the cases reported, to do case assessment, provide
--	---------	---	--

			<p>support and facilitate victims to the shelter. The unit will also be working on SoPs and awareness creation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 24 hr hotline is now functional. However, there are no translation facilities available at the moment. Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights is working on a mechanism to address this issue. • The Human Rights Commission is currently working on a study on human trafficking in Maldives, results of which will be published in the coming months. • The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has an ongoing “Blue Ribbon Campaign” to aware the public on human trafficking. This campaign was launched on 9 January 2013 and partnerships with the local media were formed. The campaign’s media partners have already given airtime and print space for discussions, debates and opinions on the human trafficking situation in the country. The campaign is divided to three phases: <p><u>Phase I</u></p> <p>Signing of MoU with media partners and through them to create awareness amongst general public by means of public programmes, via television, radio and print media.</p> <p><u>Phase II</u></p> <p>Bring onboard relevant sectors such as the tourism sector</p>
--	--	--	---

			<p>including the MATI/MTPB to launch the Blue Ribbon Campaign in the tourist resorts in the Maldives. The tourism sector also employs a large number of migrant workers.</p> <p><u>Phase III</u></p> <p>In phase III the campaign involves engaging school children in the efforts to create awareness. The plan is to raise awareness amongst the young population on human trafficking. At the end of the phase students will deliver a Pledge to the President of Maldives. The pledge will identify that human trafficking as a huge and shameful crime that needs to be eliminated immediately from the Maldives.</p> <p>Likewise, the MGFHR also planned and conducted programmes to create awareness among the recruiting agencies, as well as general public through local media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Executive Board agreed in April 2013 to establish a Human Trafficking Investigation Unit. Negotiations/discussions are currently ongoing <p>Trainings conducted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-day training for the Maldives Police Service was conducted on 29 May 2011 • Training on an Integrated Approach to Combating Trafficking in Persons held in Aarah Island, 17-18 October 2011 (IOM- funded
--	--	--	---

			<p>by US State Department)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on Sensitizing Judiciary and Investigators to Trafficking in Persons, 29th-30th April 2012 (IOM) • IOM will be implementing a counter-trafficking project in Maldives. The overall goal is to contribute to strengthening the efforts of the Government and NGOs to combat TIP in the areas of prevention, prosecution, protection and partnerships. Expected outcomes are: (a) actions are taken by parliamentarians, press and corporate leaders to assist in preventing trafficking; (b) migrant workers have the information to better prevent themselves from being trafficked; (c) increased identification and strengthened protection of victims of trafficking through a cooperative approach by government and NGO; (d) increase in trafficking cases investigated, prosecuted and convicted through enhanced skills and knowledge of law enforcement, judiciary and prosecutors; (e) improved protection of migrant workers through establishment of an inter-ministerial task force to revise and guide migration and foreign employment policies and procedures. • Victims were provided counselling through Victim Support Unit of Family, Child Protection Department of Maldives Police Service • Training for Family and Children Service Centre staff, social workers and counsellors on identifying victims and to provide psychosocial support will take place in June 2013.
--	--	--	---

	100.114	Elaborate a strategy for creating more openness and tolerance in the general public for migrants and their rights (Norway);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.107
	100.115	Cooperate with other countries that have large communities of migrant workers to find a solution in accordance with international human rights standards (Hungary);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government of Maldives signed a bilateral cooperation MOU concerning the placement of manpower with the government of Bangladesh on 29 May 2011. Most of the Migrant workers in Maldives are from Bangladesh; therefore this MOU has been instrumental in protecting the rights of migrant workers from Bangladesh. A similar MOU with the Government of India is currently being drafted.
Judiciary	100.33	Strengthen the independence of the Human Rights Commission of Maldives and work with it to improve the human rights education of the judiciary and the public (New Zealand);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2009 HRCM, submitted amendments to the HRCM Act, to the Attorney General’s office but is now preparing a new set of amendments based on other imperative identified areas • Judicial reform is a priority for the Government of Maldives. As a result with the assistance and collaboration from various international organisations several programs have been designed and conducted to enhance performance, integrity, transparency, efficiency and independence of justice institutions. The major capacity building activities carried out for the judiciary during the past three years was given to providing training and continuing education to judges and magistrates. In this context following are some of the key achievements in terms of training for judges:

			<p>1. <u>Diploma in Shariah and Law</u></p> <p>In order to facilitate the Judges and Magistrates to possess the educational qualification to discharge their duties and responsibilities as a Judge and also to abide with the concluded law (2008) which obliged that the Magistrates should hold at least a Diploma in Sharia and Law or a Diploma in Law, enabled Department of Judicial Administration to initiate this program in affiliation with Kulliyathidhiraasathil Islamiyya (Kulliya) and the Maldivian National University (MNU) in 2010.</p> <p>By end of 2012, with the sponsor of Department of Judicial Administration 74 Magistrates completed Diploma in Shariah and Law while 8 Magistrates had competed Diploma in the same area on their own. The remaining magistrates who did not complete the program are scheduled to start in the third quarter of 2013.</p> <p>2. <u>Degree in Shariah and Law</u></p> <p>The programme was designed to provide opportunities for the Magistrates and Judges who completed Diploma in Shariah and Law. As such, the degree program started in two batches in 2011, where one batch was conducted in Kulliya and the other from the Maldives National University (MNU).</p> <p>By the end of 2012, 23 Magistrates completed their first semester from Kulliya while, 22 Magistrates completed their first semester in 08 November 2012 from MNU.</p>
--	--	--	--

			<p>3. <u>Induction Programme</u></p> <p>As per the requirement of Judicial Service Commission and the mandate of Department of Judicial Administration (DJA), it is a requisite need for the DJA to carry out an Induction programme for the newly appointed Magistrates and Judges. This programme consisted of educating the magistrates with the newly concluded Laws and the important areas of the constitution as well as to provide them with the opportunity to be aware of the work done by the Superior Courts.</p> <p>As such, from 2010 till date 5 rounds of this programme have been completed where 26 magistrates successfully completed the programme.</p> <p>4. <u>Juvenile Justice Programme</u></p> <p>This is a programme conducted by the Juvenile Justice Unit of Ministry of Home Affairs for the Magistrates of the lower Courts and other related authorities focusing on ways to deal with the juvenile justice issues in the Maldives.</p> <p>From 2010 till date 11 rounds of this programme have been conducted. As per the below table, last year, 6 trainings took place under this programme.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1087 1299 1554 1429"> <thead> <tr> <th>No</th> <th>Held for</th> <th>Number of Participants from</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No	Held for	Number of Participants from			
No	Held for	Number of Participants from							

		Judiciary
1	R. Atoll	2
2	M. Atoll	4
3	Gn. Atoll	2
4	AA. Atoll	2
5	K. Atoll	6
6	S. Atoll	6

5. Seminars/ Conferences

Judges have also had the opportunity to participate in regional and international conferences and workshops on particular subjects of law and current legal issues. Such trips abroad have proven to be fruitful exposure trip for the judges.

The following table summarizes the Seminars/Conferences and Workshops the Judges and Magistrates participated from 2010 till date.

No	Name	Country	No. of Participants
1	PET (English Program)	Bangalore - India	37
2	Case Management	Male - Maldives	75
3	Access to Justice (by Dr. Richard Woolfson)	Male - Maldives	27

			4	Access to Justice (UNDP) – in more than 07 rounds judges received training on human rights and constitution.	Atolls - Maldives	More than 125
			5	Senior Magistrate’s Symposium	Bandos Island Resort / Maldives	20
			6	Mediation Training	Male - Maldives	20
			7	Commonwealth Judges and Magistrates Conference	Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia	5
			8	24 th Law Asia Conference	South Korea	7
			9	CLA Regional Law Conference	Sydney/ Australia	4
			10	International Conference on eCommerce and Communication 2012	Singapore	3
			11	Milestone Judgments’ in Competition Law	Mauritius	1
			12	25th Law Asia Annual Conference	Bali -Indonesia	5
			13	Legal Training for Counter-Piracy Operation	Seychelles	1
			14	Judicial Education Program	Male- Maldives	25
			15	Judicial Independence, Accountability and	Male - Maldives	27

				Professionalism		
			16	Malaysian Attachment Program	Kuala Lumpur/ Malaysia	2
			17	Justice Sector Reform: Case Management / Judicial Ethics / Judicial Administration	Male - Maldives	8
			18	C.J.E.I Biennial <i>meeting of Judicial Educators</i>	Kuala Lumpur/ Malaysia	4
			19	Training at Karnataka Judicial Academy	Bangalore / India	3
			20	The role of the judiciary in an Independent democratic society – by Mr. Praveen H Parek	Male - Maldives	10
			21	Human Rights Training – by UNDP	Male - Maldives	For Supreme Court Judges and Legal Staff
			22	6 th Regional Workshop for Police Officers, Prosecutors and Judges in South Asia on effectively countering terrorism	Kathmandu / Nepal	1
			23	International Labour Standards for Judges,	Male - Maldives	3

				Lawyers and Educators		
			24	Evaluating the value of Forensic Evidence (2 rounds)	Male - Maldives	51
			25	Islamic Financing and Capital Market Rules and Regulations - CMDA	Male - Maldives	16
			26	Taxation Act and Regulations	Male - Maldives	10
			<p><u>For Legal Staff</u></p> <p>Furthermore, during the past two years training programs and workshops were also held for the Legal Staff of the Judiciary as per the table below.</p>			
			No	Name		No. of Participants
			1	Diploma in Justice Studies (MNU) – 03 batches		22
			2	Degree in Shariah and Law (MNU)		5
			3	Bachelor of Law (MNU)		5
			4	Bachelor of Law (Malaysia)		2
			5	Bachelor Of Law (LLB) London External Program (Sri Lanka)		2
			6	Degree in Shariah and Law (Kulliya)		1
			7	Justice Sector Reform: Case Management / Judicial Ethics / Judicial Administration		5

			8	Access to Justice (by Dr. Richard Woolfson)	27	
100.79	Implement the United Nations Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and the Role of Lawyers (New Zealand);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supreme Court of the Maldives, in dispensing its responsibility as the guardian of the constitution and the laws had delivered numerous decisions upholding rule of law in the country. Judicial Independence, an important aspect of rule of law, was emphasized in the Supreme Court decision of 2011/06 which instructed judges to decide cases independently uninfluenced by any other external factor. A reflection through decided cases of the past year reveals ground-breaking decisions in the history of the Maldives. One such decision was given in the case of 2010/SC-C/27, wherein it was pleaded for an interpretation of Article 143 of the Constitution, which did not specifically prescribe a time period for presidential assent to Bills presented after reconsideration by the People’s Majlis (Parliament of the Maldives). This was a decision by which, the Supreme Court, by the application of legal principles, saved the legal system from a legal vacancy. Furthermore, the Supreme Court has given its first advisory opinion to the Parliament of the Maldives under Article 95 of the Constitution in 2013. The Parliament by its declaration sought Supreme Court’s opinion in the case 2010/SC-AD/28, whereby it was decided by a unanimous decision of the Supreme Court’s full bench that the members of the Maldives Police Services and the Maldives Defence Force were indeed answerable to the committees of the Parliament by virtue of Article 98 and 99 of the Constitution. Also, significant legal principles were laid down in the case of 2010/SC-C/26 and case number 2010/SC-C/25 wherein the importance of an even check and balance system between the three organs of the state and avoidance of encroachment into the sphere of other organs was emphasized. In 				

			<p>addition to hearing of cases, Justices of the Supreme Court hold regular meetings in order to dispense its responsibility as the guardian of the judiciary. In this regard several rules, regulations and court orders had been issued with the aim of strengthening the administration of courts and unification of court procedures in the Maldives.</p>
	100.80	Continue its efforts to further strengthen the judiciary (Azerbaijan);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.33 and 100.79 • In 2010 The Judicial Service Commission has established a Code of Conduct for Judges largely based on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct. • The lawyer’s community of the Maldives was represented by the Law Society of the Maldives (LSM). It had a member base of about 80% of the lawyers in the country and also has a Disciplinary Committee to oversee the conduct of its members with regard to their ethics and professional behavior. However, the lack of recognition and legislative status for the LSM has resulted in LSM being unable to take disciplinary measures against its members who act unethically. In spite of that LSM has acted in an advisory role for the Attorney General in his functions as the regulator of legal profession in the Maldives. In the absence of a formal bar association there is currently no Act nor a regulation which comprehensively address Ethics and Disciplinary issues of lawyers. As a further measures, the regulation of lawyers monitored by Supreme Court is part of the court process which is not applicable to all the lawyers but to lawyers attending courts.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of the Judges and Lawyers Ms. Gabriela Knaul made an official visit to Male' on 16 Feb 2013. The Special Rapporteur's visit to the Maldives as part of her engagement with the Maldives and also as a follow up to her predecessor Dr. Leandro Despouy's visit to the Maldives in 2007. Her mission to the Maldives is focused towards assessing the independence of judges and lawyers as well as the smooth functioning of the justice system after the enactment of the new democratic Constitution in the Maldives in 2008. During her mission, the Special Rapporteur held meetings with all Government and non-Governmental stakeholders including NGOs where she addressed issues that are relevant to her mandate. The Special Rapporteur also met with lawyers, Parliamentarians and members of the judiciary. The Government of Maldives welcomed the report of the Special Rapporteur published after the visit and is committed to implementing her recommendations.
	100.81	Take concerted steps to build a strong and independent judiciary (United Kingdom);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to recommendations 100.33, 100.79 and 100.80
Drugs	100.87	Strengthen the role of the family in order to protect children from drugs and sexual exploitation, and reduce juvenile delinquency (Qatar);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Drugs Agency works closely with UNICEF in providing preventive drug education for children, parents and for school management. It also conducts Training of Trainers program on life skills for these groups.

	100.120	<p>Give further consideration to enacting legislation and formulating national action plans with concrete goals: to prevent the economic exploitation of and hazardous work by children; and to combat drug abuse, human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and children (Japan);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2011 National Drug Agency (NDA) is the mandated government authority to decrease or eliminate the problem of drug trafficking and addiction in the country by providing treatment and rehabilitation for the drug users and working in coordination with all the stakeholder agencies. A Drug court system was established under the new Drug Law 17/2011 and is the only such system present in South Asia region. • The new Drug Law also allows the privatization of the treatment and rehabilitation Centres. • Regulations, guidelines and SOP's have been formulated and published under the new law to provide treatment and rehabilitation services. • NDA is gearing up to start services for the vulnerable populations (IDUs, females, juveniles). To establish the treatment and rehabilitation in the prison setting NDA is coordinating with the relevant authorities. • The new Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation centre has been officially opened by the Minister of Health on the 28th of March 2013. • A Methadone Maintenance Program was introduced in 2008 and has been since dispensing methadone to high risk, Intravenous Drug users/IDUs and long term heroin addicts.. Currently, 85 clients are on treatment at the Methadone Maintenance Therapy program.
--	---------	---	---

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government of Maldives carried forward a project with UNODC and European Union/EU to strengthen national response to combat drug abuse in the 2010 to 2012. Under this project a national drug abuse helpline was established and this helpline is working without interruption of services. Counselors were also trained under this project on specific treatment approaches. • Drug rehabilitation programs for women, Youth empowerment programs, drug free workplace programs were also conducted under this project. • The Strategic Action Plan (2013-2017) of NDA has been drafted and is in the finalization stage. • The National Institute for Research and Addiction Studies was established by the NDA and was registered as an academic institute on 18th May 2012. The Institute has embarked on its first short-term training course Para-Professional addiction counselor training course from 14th April 2013 45 students were enrolled for this course in this institute. The addiction research is another area of work anticipated in broadening the services of the Institute which will be starting in June 2013. • The NDA also works closely with UNICEF in providing preventive drug education for children and training of school management and conducting Training of Trainers program on life skills. NDA also receives support from WHO • A heavy focus of the Maldives Police Service has been placed on
--	--	--	--

			<p>averting vulnerable youth from drugs. The Marine Police is currently carrying out a program to teach motorboat driving skills to vulnerable youth. Another program is also currently being undertaken by the police in partnership with the Asia Foundation to carry out diving training for vulnerable youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs are also aired by TV and radio to aware the general public regarding violent crimes and how to combat them (information provided by experienced Investigating Officers of SOCD of the Maldives Police Service) • In collaboration with SPT and APT, Human Rights Commission of the Maldives in 2011 conducted a National dialogue with stakeholders from Ministry of Health, DPRS, Finance, CSC, Ministry of Home Affairs and representatives from Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre. In this forum discussions were held to expedite the implementation of recommendations related to rehabilitation of drug offenders. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Work done in collaboration with UN bodies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF, supported the National Drug Agency in training of trainers on life skills for HIV and drug abuse prevention to implement programmes for most at risk adolescents • Under the Drugs Act (No. 17/2011), the National Drug Agency is required to establish drug treatment and rehabilitation centers for
--	--	--	---

			<p>drug dependent persons. The Act also allows for such centers to be established and run by private parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different types and levels of activities were conducted to build the capacity of key stakeholders in the drug demand reduction sector; particularly the National Drug Agency (previously known as Department of Drug Rehabilitation Services); supported by UNODC. Key activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical capacity building of counselors in supervision and case management - Series of drug prevention activities targeting youth in different atolls - Support to civil society to deliver drug prevention and support to recovering users - Life-skills education among school teachers to deliver programme within their schools - Support to set-up a treatment center and out-reach in Fuahmulah - Supported effective (HIV) prevention activities such as peer educator training's, VCT centers, drop-in centers for recovering drug users - Evidence generation – supported the first national drug use survey
--	--	--	---

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported the Drug Act, and provided technical support to orient law enforcement personnel's and NDA staff to the Act - Supported NDA in the strategic development process in order to better fulfil their role as stipulated in the Drug Act - Support to NGOs to develop a civil society network on drug response
	100.122	Seek the assistance and necessary expertise of United Nations specialized agencies in building and strengthening institutions to rehabilitate those engaged in drug-related crimes (Qatar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please refer to recommendation 100.120
Human Rights Commission	100.31	Ensure that the Human Rights Commission is made fully compliant with the Paris Principles (India);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2009 HRCM, submitted amendments to the HRCM Act, to the Attorney General's office but is now preparing a new set of amendments based on other imperative identified areas
	100.32	Upgrade the status of the Human Rights Commission of Maldives to "A" status according to the Paris Principles by fully ensuring its independence, including with regard to budgetary allocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.31

		(Germany);	
Women	100.39	Adopt and implement an effective legal framework and undertake appropriate public awareness campaigns to eliminate discrimination against women (Slovakia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence Act was enacted in April 2012 and a Family protection Authority was established. The Authority is mandated with monitoring of the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, and has an appointed seven member board. It is currently drafting all the necessary regulations under the Domestic Violence Act, and monitoring whether service providers comply with the Act. • The Domestic Violence Act was drafted in line with CEDAW • Gender Equality bill is currently in the drafting stages. Asian Development Bank is providing technical and financial support to draft this bill. It addresses any violence that occurs in a domestic setting. During the first phase of drafting, inception meetings were held between all stakeholders and the second phase, which is to commence in September, will focus on holding consultative meetings in selected regions in the country. The first draft of the bill is expected to be completed by November 2013. • Family and Children Service Centres are established in 19 Atolls in the country, responsible for handling all gender and family related issues. These centres carry out trainings and awareness raising programmes for counsellors, teachers and specific groups within the society on gender equality, eliminating gender stereotyping and to empower women at a local level. • The Ministry of Gender, Family and human rights is planning to start a media advocacy campaign on women’s rights. The campaign is in its initial stages of planning and the Ministry is consulting with its media partners to design it.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights with “Hope for women” (An NGO on women rights advocacy), carried out an awareness raising event on “violence against women” on 14 February 2013 which was a part of the global one billion rising campaign. • The government carried out the campaign “10 days of activism on violence against women from 25th November to 10th December. Awareness raising programmes on women’s rights and gender based violence were carried out throughout the period, both in Male’ and in the Atolls. High level staff from the Ministry of Gender, family and human rights also took part in media programmes on gender based violence throughout the period • A Training of Trainers session on women rights was held in Male in June 2012. • Training for counsellors and “Island women development committees” on women’s rights and other gender based issues were held in three specific regions of the country. Training for a fourth region will be held during the second week of September • Gender Sensitisation sessions for school children are held by the Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights upon request by schools and other educational institutions. • A high level national consultation process was held under UNITE campaign in 2012
	100.21	Continue legislative reforms aimed at guaranteeing the effective implementation of the rights and obligations contained in international instruments, such	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.39

		as CEDAW, CRC and CAT (Brazil);	
	100.22	Make additional efforts to ensure that domestic law is brought into line with the provisions of CEDAW, particularly concerning marriage, divorce, inheritance, ensuring equality of rights for both spouses and the adoption of comprehensive measures to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, and the adoption of laws on domestic violence and all forms of sexual abuse (Spain)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.39
	100.26	Enact legislation related to CEDAW, as no corresponding domestic law has so far been enacted (Hungary);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.39
	100.40	Take effective measures to overcome deep-rooted stereotypes on the role of women and girls (Austria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.39
	100.41	Adopt a more systematic approach to building public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The family, Children Service Centres conduct trainings for “Island women development committees” and other selected groups of

		awareness about gender equality and the potential contributions that women can make to social and economic development, which would help break down existing barriers faced by women in employment and education, while at the same time ameliorating the incidence of sexual exploitation and violence suffered by women (Trinidad and Tobago);	<p>women on increasing women’s participation in social and economic development of the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Small and Medium Enterprises Loan scheme, established by the Ministry of Economic Development forty percent of the loans are reserved for women • The government’s initiative on skills development, “STEP” focuses on increasing women’s involvement in the labour market • Refer to recommendation 100.39
	100.42	Continue to implement a national gender equality policy by strengthening legislation for protection and non-discrimination, as well as equality (Chile);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic action plan for Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights, which was drafted for 2014-2019, is based on gender equality.
	100.43	Step up efforts to implement the 2009 Gender Mainstreaming Policy with a view to combating the de facto discrimination faced by Maldivians and to explore the possibility of adopting additional measures to combat violence against women in the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to resource constraints, the 2009 Gender Mainstreaming policy has not been implemented yet. However, in 2010 gender focal points were appointed for all government ministries. • Refer to recommendation 100.39

		(Malaysia);	
	100.44	Adopt measures to curb discrimination against women and violence against children (Bangladesh);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.39
	100.45	Take measures to strengthen women's rights, in particular to encourage greater representation of women in public life and combat sexual and domestic violence (United Kingdom);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government has drafted a paper on establishing a quota for women in all appointed and elected government bodies. • Refer to Recommendation 100.39
	100.46	Take concrete steps to increase the representation of women in decision-making bodies (Norway);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.45
	100.47	Speed up the implementation of laws enacted regarding the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and enact adequate legislation that can put an end to the violence to which they are subjected (Libyan Arab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.39 • Implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, has been slow due to resource limitations

		Jamahiriya)	
	100.59	Work towards eliminating all forms of violence against women (Bhutan);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.39
	100.60	Take further steps to address issues of violence against women, including to finalize the Women's Right Bill, the Domestic Violence Bill and the Children's Act, as early as possible, and consider withdrawing its reservation to article 16 of CEDAW (Timor-Leste);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.39
	100.61	Take all measures necessary to ensure the elimination of violence and discrimination against women, and review its reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women with a view to withdrawing it (Sweden);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.39

	100.62	Give priority to addressing all forms of violence against women and girls, inter alia, by providing redress and protection services to victims of such crimes (Norway);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.39 • Domestic Violence Act addresses three main areas; the role of police, role of health service providers and the role of psychosocial support providers. Under the Act, temporary protection orders and permanent restraining orders can be issued by courts, for suspected domestic violence cases. Reporting is also mandatory for all stakeholders upon identification of domestic violence victims. • Temporary shelter is provided for victims less than 18 years of age. In severe cases, women over the age of 18 are also provided with temporary shelter
	100.63	Establish additional mechanisms for protecting citizens against domestic violence, and adopt the provisions that would ensure legal redress for gender-based violence. Important steps in this regard include the expeditious passage of legislation to promote women’s rights, prohibit sexual harassment and criminalize domestic violence (United States);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.62 • A draft bill on Sexual Harassment is currently at the committee stages of the Parliament
	100.64	Ensure that its draft Domestic Violence Bill addresses the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Domestic Violence Act is in line with CEDAW, and it has strict punishments for perpetrators of violence against women

		investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of violence against women, and that it is implemented as a priority (New Zealand);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.39
	100.65	Intensify awareness-raising and educational campaigns to combat violence against women, and adopt measures to improve women's participation in the decision-making process (Algeria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.45 • Refer to recommendation 100.39
	100.66	Continue the commendable public campaigns against violence against women and children, and ensure the swift adoption and implementation of the new Bill on Domestic Violence (Austria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.45
	100.67	Continue to improve efforts to combat gender-based violence, and establish a mechanism for protecting abused women (Indonesia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.62 • The ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights is working on establishing a proper referral mechanism with stakeholders on cases of abuse involving women above 18 years of age.

	100.68	Take measures to eradicate traditional stereotypes of women, especially through educational programmes, and enact legislation on domestic violence and all forms of sexual abuse (Netherlands);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.39
	100.69	Continue its measures to tackle the problem of violence against women, including domestic violence (Azerbaijan);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.39
	100.70	Prioritize legislation on women's rights, sexual harassment, domestic violence and the protection of children against abuse (Australia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft Sexual Harassment Bill is currently in the committee stages of the parliament • Refer to recommendation 100.39
	100.71	Consolidate the achievements made, particularly through gender mainstreaming in all fields; grant autonomy to women; and face challenges arising in this regard, particularly the fight against violence against women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of gender is working closely with all major government stakeholders and NGOs on gender Mainstreaming. • Refer to Recommendation 100.41 • Refer to Recommendation 100.39

	(Morocco);	
100.72	Adopt and implement the draft law on domestic violence referred to in the national report, taking into account the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child concerning the incorporation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into domestic law (Mexico);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.39
100.103	Create an environment of freedom of the media, and encourage media to project positive images of women and of the equal status and responsibilities of women and men in the private and public spheres (Slovenia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Gender, Family and Human rights is working closely with the media in sensitizing the public about gender issues and to reduce gender stereotyping
100.104	Implement legislation, as required under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to end discrimination against women and harassment in the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.70

		workplace (New Zealand);	
	100.119	Continue its legislative, institutional and socio-economic reforms to provide an effective framework to address gender mainstreaming, violence against women, religious intolerance, particularly with regard to citizenship, freedom of speech, and human trafficking, and focus on the very key question of achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, which will comprehensively address the key question of human rights (Nigeria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.39 (legislative reform) • The Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights was formed in 2012 to address gender and human rights issues separately. Prior to 2012, the gender department within the Ministry of Health was mandated with this
	100.120	Give further consideration to enacting legislation and formulating national action plans with concrete goals: to prevent the economic exploitation of and hazardous work by children; and to combat drug abuse, human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and children (Japan);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.107 • Refer to Recommendation 100. 39

	100.106	Increase steps to improve the participation of women in the labour market and in leadership and governance positions in the public and private sectors (Philippines);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100. 41
Persons with disabilities	100.30	Adopt and implement draft laws regarding persons with disabilities and concerning mental health, as referred to in the national report, with a view to providing a normative framework to strengthen awareness-raising campaigns on human rights and disability (Mexico);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Act was endorsed and enacted in July 2010. • Disability Council was formed in August 2010. The ministry of Gender, family and human rights is the secretariat of the council and it has held 77 meetings to date. • Regulation on the Disability Registry was published on Jan 2011. • Regulation on providing allowance and assistive devices was published on Jan 2011. An allowance of Rf. 2000 is provided to all registered Persons with disabilities since then. • Regulation on the minimum standards in terms of accessibility to buildings is to be published in July 2013 • Work on 6 more regulations have been initiated with financial and technical assistance from UNICEF. • Fifteen flats were given to families with Persons with disabilities in May 201, under the social housing policy. Fifteen more flats are to be given in 2013; revision of the criteria is underway. • A National Disability Policy has been drafted with a stakeholder's workshop for validation held. The policy awaits cabinet endorsement. • National Disability Award held in July 2012, whereby persons with disabilities, people/NGOs/companies who

			<p>work/promote/encourage for the rights of persons with disabilities were recognized at national level and awarded. This award is to be given again in 2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Disability Walk was held in June 2013. The main objective was to increase awareness on rights of Persons with Disabilities. The main theme was "breaking barriers for persons with disabilities". • A Disability Fair was held in June 2013, the main objective of which was to increase awareness and also to provide a platform at which people could gain information about service providers, types of services etc available for persons with disabilities. Stalls from the Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights, National Institute of Education, Care Society, Autism Association, Blind Association, Deaf Association and Beautiful Eyes of Maldives (NGO advocating the rights of children with Down syndrome) were put up. • The Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights conducted and participated in various programs on the media to create awareness and disseminate information about the rights of persons with disabilities. • The Government plans to provide fees for students with disabilities enrolled in private institutions and the drafting of the guidelines to facilitate this is currently underway. • The government is working make some public areas/buildings accessible to Persons with disabilities. Regulation on the minimum standards in terms of accessibility to buildings is to be published in July 2013 • The government is also reviewing the “Aasandha” insurance package, universal health coverage, for persons with disabilities, in light of special services and devices that have to be provided.
--	--	--	--

			The government is working with National Social Protection Agency to make an assessment on this.
	100.49	Make further efforts and take the legislative and administrative measures necessary to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities on the ground (Qatar);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Recommendation 100.30
	100.124	Take all measures for the purpose of post-disaster reconstruction and adaptation to climate change, with a human-rights-based approach, and carry out consultations with the concerned local communities, giving special attention to women, children and persons with disabilities in this process (Finland);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on the minimum standards in terms of accessibility to buildings is to be published in July 2013
Penal Code	100.55	Ensure that its new Penal Code is fully consistent with international human rights standards and that it abolishes corporal punishment and the death penalty (United	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Maldives has one of the world's longest standing moratoriums on the death penalty since 1952. While there are no plans to legally abolish the death penalty, it is noteworthy that the Maldives voted in favour of the resolution 65/206 calling on member states to establish a moratorium with a view to abolish

		Kingdom);	<p>death penalty. Recently the Maldives has seen a rise in the popular call for the implementation of the death penalty as prescribed in Islamic law. This rise has been due to the increased number of heinous crimes including murder in the society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the Government understands that scientific data disproves the concept that the implementation of the death penalty would reduce the crime rate; the Government is not enthusiastic about implementing the punishment either. • Nonetheless, the Attorney General introduced a bill on the ways of executing the death penalty. A closer look at the Bill reveals that it imposes a high burden on the State including the judiciary in passing the sentence. It also adds unprecedented steps in the manner of safeguards in the execution of the sentence. • Article 9 of the Constitution states that all citizens of Maldives should be Muslims. The following article (Article 10), states that no laws should be made that contradicts the fundamentals of Islam. Article 268 further states that, any law made in contradiction with the constitution shall be deemed null and void. Therefore Islam is the basis of all laws made in the Maldives, hence making it impossible to fully remove Hadd punishments such as Qisaas (death penalty) and flogging from the penal code. However, the Government is currently in consultations with all relevant stakeholders on the possibility of its removal at least for those under the age of eighteen years, in the current penal code draft that is being finalised at the Parliament. Nevertheless, it is important to note that though Hadd punishments such as death penalty and flogging are prescribed for certain offences, it can only be given when these offenses are proven beyond reasonable
--	--	-----------	---

			<p>doubt. Even if a death sentence is passed by a judge, the heirs could forgive the convict or request for blood money instead. Islam encourages the heirs to forgive, instead of opting for retaliation in murder cases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Islamic Shariah, the purpose of flogging as a Hadd punishment is not to inflict pain. Therefore, no physical harm should come on to anyone as a consequence of being flogged. If the person sentenced to be flogged is suffering from an illness, it should be postponed till he/she fully recovers from the ailment. If the sentenced person is pregnant, the sentence should be implemented only when she delivers and recovers fully.
	100.26	Enact the new draft Penal Code pending before Parliament (Austria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft Penal Code is currently being reviewed by an ad hoc committee of the Parliament and is in its final stages of review
Trafficking in Persons	100.77	Enact legislation to criminalize trafficking of persons, and put in place procedures to deal with those people vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking (Indonesia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.107
	100.107	Draft and enact legislation prohibiting and punishing all forms of trafficking in persons, including the forced labour of migrants. Promulgate laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.107

		imposing stricter punishments for violations, and hold employers who violate laws accountable and establish a national minimum wage (United States);	
	100.119	Continue its legislative, institutional and socio-economic reforms to provide an effective framework to address gender mainstreaming, violence against women, religious intolerance, particularly with regard to citizenship, freedom of speech, and human trafficking, and focus on the very key question of achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, which will comprehensively address the key question of human rights (Nigeria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.107
	100.120	Give further consideration to enacting legislation and formulating national action plans with concrete goals: to prevent the economic exploitation of and hazardous work by children; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.107

		to combat drug abuse, human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and children (Japan);	
Labour	100.107	Draft and enact legislation prohibiting and punishing all forms of trafficking in persons, including the forced labour of migrants. Promulgate laws imposing stricter punishments for violations, and hold employers who violate laws accountable and establish a national minimum wage (United States);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.107 • A draft bill on determining the salary structure of Government bodies is currently at the committee stages of the parliament • Article 3 of the Employment Act (No. 2/2008) prohibits all forms of forced labour and Article 4 of the Act prohibits all forms of discrimination during the selection of employees, determining their remunerations, employment termination as well as in all other work related issues. If an employer violates these provisions in the Employment Act, a complaint can be lodged at the Employment tribunal, where the allegation will be investigated and appropriate actions against the employer will be taken.

	100.108	Put in place specific programmes to improve the employment situation, in particular for young people (Algeria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVETA) - Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Human Resources, Youth and Sports (MHRYS) and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, initiated an apprentice programme “Skills, Training and Employment Programme (STEP)”, recognizing the need to increase the number of Maldivians seeking careers and receiving training in the tourism and hospitality industry. It is a 9 to 12 months training program that will present the youth with a tremendous range of careers available in the tourism industry. It is a full-time employment-based training program which leads to a nationally recognized trade qualification. A combination of on-the-job and off-the-job training enables the apprentice to obtain all the necessary skills. During the training period, trainees are posted at various jobs at the resorts. The first 3 month of the training program will be designed as an orientation where the trainees will be exposed to the various departments of the resort. Trainees will be placed in a department of their choice for the remaining 6 to 9 months from the exposed departments of the resort. TVETA shall provide the resort with the National Competency Standards upon completion of the STEP Orientation period. The MOTAC, TVETA and MHRYS shall monitor the quality of the training program through persons appointed by it for the purpose. • The National Career Guidance Center of the Ministry of Human Resources, Youth and Sports conducts regular career guidance programmes for both Parents and school children • A portal, “Yes.mv” is now online, which will easily connect job seekers with employers from different sectors • Life skills programmes, peer education programmes and a number
--	---------	---	---

			of thematic sessions have been held by the Ministry of Human Resources, Youth and Sports, for the youth
	100.105	Continue to effectively implement pro-poor growth and employment creation strategies (Indonesia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of the Unemployment situation in the Maldives was completed in 2011. This allowed the government to better understand the unemployment situation in the country and work towards employment creation strategies. • Strategic Human Resource Plan for the Tourism Sector was completed for 2011-2015. Though this plan is not officially implemented, this is the basis for conducting programmes to increase youth and women participation in the industry.
Religious issues	100.91	Take concrete steps to encourage and facilitate open and public debate on religious issues (Norway);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to encourage scholarly debates on religious issues, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs organised a Conference in January 2013. Some of the agreed issues are as follows. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the role of Islamic scholars to aware the public on ways to protect women from all forms of violence

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase awareness on the rights of women - Assist in speeding up the legal process involved in divorce cases lodged by women on the basis that they are being physically abused by the husbands. - Explain to the public that there is no real contradiction between universal human rights and the punishments prescribed in Islamic Shariah - Have regular issue based discussions between religious scholars
	100.102	Decriminalize apostasy (Austria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostasy is not criminalized under existing statute law, but is governed by Shariah Law. According to information received from Islamic Ministry on cases of apostasy so far all individuals involved were given advice. No criminal charges have been filed against them.
	100.100	Examine the possibility of decriminalizing apostasy and blasphemy (Argentina)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.102
	100.99	Enact legislation to ensure that all persons may freely exercise their religion in public and build places of worship (Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several provisions in our laws and regulations already grant the right to freedom of expressions and thoughts. The constitution of Maldives, the social framework, historical and traditional values however, does not allow for other religions to be

			<p>practiced in the country. Non Muslims in the country are allowed to practice their religion privately. In this regard and in accordance with the laws and regulations of Maldives, expatriates workers and foreigners have the freedom to practice their religion in private. Act no. 4/75 forbid certain articles such as objects that represent religious deities, or any objects used in worship (religions other than Islam) to be brought in to the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostasy is not criminalized under existing law, but is governed by Shariah Law. According to information received from Islamic Ministry on cases of apostasy those individuals are given advice. • In accordance to the laws and regulations of Maldives, expatriates workers and foreigners have the freedom to practice their religion in private. The Islamic Ministry has so far not received any complaints from foreigners residing in Maldives in this regard. However Act no. 4/75 forbid certain articles such as objects that represent religious deities, or any objects used in worship (religions other than Islam) to be brought in to the country. The Religious Unity Act of 1994 forbids, building of places of worship other than mosques.
	100.101	Make the necessary amendments to legislation in order to ensure that communities of all faiths and religions have an equal place in a democratic society (Indonesia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.99
	100.97	Take legislative and practical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.99

		measures with a view to the realization of the right to freedom of religion and belief (Austria);	
	100.96	Consider appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against religious minorities in accordance with international standards (Slovakia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.99
	100.95	Remove legislation which discriminates against individuals on the basis of their religion or belief (Australia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government of Maldives does not discriminate based on the religious belief of an individual. • Refer to recommendation 100.99
	100.94	Ensure that all people, including migrants, are allowed to practice their religion or belief freely, including by enacting legislation that explicitly protects the right to freedom of religion or belief (Norway);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.99
	100.92	Take all measures necessary to ensure full respect for freedom of religion or belief and freedom from discrimination on the basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.99

		of religion, including by way of allowing non-Muslims to become citizens and withdrawing its reservation to article 18 of ICCPR (Sweden);	
	100.90	Amend its legislation to enable the enjoyment and practice of freedom of religion or belief for both citizens and foreigners living in the country (Ghana);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.99
	100.89	Include constitutional measures to provide for freedom of religion or belief to all persons residing in the country (United States);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.99
	100.88	Ensure the right to freedom of religion or belief (Brazil);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.99
Children	100.44	Adopt measures to curb discrimination against women and violence against children (Bangladesh);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government is now working on the draft bill on the protection of children and child rights, which is in line with CRC. Inputs from all relevant stakeholders were taken for the purpose of the draft.
	100.48	Establish equal rights for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.44

		children, regardless of the marriage status of their parents (Bosnia and Herzegovina);	
	100.60	Take further steps to address issues of violence against women, including to finalize the Women's Right Bill, the Domestic Violence Bill and the Children's Act, as early as possible, and consider withdrawing its reservation to article 16 of CEDAW (Timor-Leste);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to recommendation 100.44
	100.66	Continue the commendable public campaigns against violence against women and children, and ensure the swift adoption and implementation of the new Bill on Domestic Violence (Austria);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various information and awareness building workshops have been carried out by the Ministry of Gender, Family and Human rights, targeted for children, teachers, parents, youth and other stakeholders. • Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM) has established Human Rights Clubs in schools in order to raise awareness among children on human rights values • HRCM is conducting a 3 yearlong campaign on child abuse with special focus on neglect. Sessions are carried out to school children on CRC in addition to information regarding bullying and its human rights implications. • Sessions are carried out to parents on child abuse and neglect,

			together with a media campaign on the issue
	100.70	Prioritize legislation on women's rights, sexual harassment, domestic violence and the protection of children against abuse (Australia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to recommendation 100.44
	100.73	Increase efforts to address the serious problem of violence against children, including by ensuring full legal protection against the sexual abuse of children (Norway);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A committee was established by the President in April 2013 to discuss issues related to child protection and to provide policy guidance to further reinforce and strengthen the existing system and mechanisms for the protection of children in Maldives.

	100.75	<p>Continue ensuring the promotion and protection of the human rights of children in the country, including through the establishment of appropriate programmes and measures aimed at combating the spread of a culture of violence among Maldivian youth and children (Malaysia);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to combat the spread of a culture of violence among children, “child abuse prevention” training and sensitising sessions for school children, teachers and parents are held on a regular basis, within Male’ and in the atolls; components of which include measures to stop bullying in the school environment • Life skills sessions are held for young people and their parents with the increased risk of involvement in violent crimes. Each of these training programmes last for 10 days and are carried out biannually.
--	--------	--	---

	100.76	Take further measures to strengthen child rights and the child protection system, in particular to prevent sexual and physical abuse, to tackle underage marriage/concubinage and to ensure that children under 18 years are not punished as adults in the judicial system (United Kingdom);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to strengthen the child protection system and to provide capacity to social workers in the Family, Children Services Centres in the Islands, refresher training was held in 2012. More areas of support for social workers were identified within this training and the Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights, plans to conduct more trainings in 2013. • Mapping and Assessment of the child protection system in Maldives was conducted and priority areas were identified. • With the UNICEF's assistance, a draft plan on child protection in emergencies has been compiled. The plan will be incorporated in to the National Disaster Management Plans
	100.86	Ensure that children in conflict with the law have access to education (Ghana)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some child offenders kept under house arrest are allowed to attend schools or other such institutions for studies. However, due to resource constraints, children in pre-trial and post trial detention do not have access to education or any rehabilitation programmes.
	100.85	Expedite efforts to enact a Juvenile Justice Act in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ghana);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government plans to submit the Juvenile Justice Bill to the Parliament by the end of 2013. This bill was drafted based on the CRC, JDL, Beijing Rules, and the Riyadh guidelines. • The Juvenile Justice Unit, (JJU) of the Ministry of Home affairs is mandated with the formulation of national policies regarding children who come into conflict with the law. The unit is responsible for drafting laws, regulations and procedures regarding children in conflict with the law in coordination with the relevant government agencies. They also provide alternatives out

			<p>of the legal system for dealing with children in conflict with the law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unit also provides rehabilitation and other interventions for juvenile offenders. They also collect information on juvenile delinquency and have formed a statistical database in collaboration with other relevant authorities. • JJU conducts awareness programs on juvenile justice system for police officers, people from the judicial sector, school management, officials from the local councils and for personnel from the established family and children service centers in the islands. In 2011, Juvenile Justice Training was conducted in the following islands; Hdh. Kulhudhufushi, Gdh. Thinadhoo and N. Velidhoo. In 2012, similar trainings were conducted for the following Islands; in L. Gan, B. Eydhafushi, Dh. Kudahuvadhoo, Male' (STELCO), GN. Fuvahmulah, ADh. Mahibadhoo, K. Thulusdhoo and Addu City of Maldives. In 2013, this training was conducted in M. Muli and for Prison officers in K. Maafushi. According to JJU records a total of 358 people have been trained so far under the training programme. • JJU also conducts Parent effectiveness training (PET) for parents of child offenders, so that recidivism is reduced through effective parenting. It is an internationally recognized programme and is conducted for 8 days. This training programme was financed by UNICEF and was conducted in the following islands. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PET Training for parents in K. Maafushi (7 – 11 March 2013) - PET Training for parents in K. Thulusdhoo (7 – 11 April
--	--	--	---

			<p>2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PET Training for parents in Male' City (14 – 28 April 2013) - Life Skill Programme in Maafannu Madharusaa (3 – 30 April 2013) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JJU also monitors the functioning of a Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee, in addition to the management of “Education and Training Centre for children” in K Atoll “Feydhoofinolhu”. However, due to resource issues the center is now managed by the Maldives police Service. Since the Correctional Training Centre for Children was established in mid 2009, three batches of child offenders have received training and rehabilitation. A total of fifty eight child offenders joined the eight month programme and forty one completed it. Four children were moved to Dhoonidhoo Custodial under a court order, five were removed by parents, four received sentences while at training, three were removed for medical reasons, and one was removed upon reaching the age of 18. The last batch graduated on 7 May 2013. The Maldives police Service has temporarily stopped the programme due to resource constraints. • The Juvenile Justice Unit, also prepared the following documents for wide circulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaflets prepared by Juvenile Justice Unit - Leaflet on Juvenile Justice Unit - Leaflet on Restorative Justice - Leaflet on Juvenile Justice System
--	--	--	---

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Booklets prepared by Juvenile Justice Unit - Booklet on Peaceful Environment 1 (Gang violence)
	100.120	Give further consideration to enacting legislation and formulating national action plans with concrete goals: to prevent the economic exploitation of and hazardous work by children; and to combat drug abuse, human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and children (Japan);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Gender, Family and Human Rights, plans to conduct a study on commercial sexual exploitation of children in the Maldives, so that it will enable the Ministry to further focus on these special groups and incorporate activities to the annual action plans.
	100.124	Take all measures for the purpose of post-disaster reconstruction and adaptation to climate change, with a human-rights-based approach, and carry out consultations with the concerned local communities, giving special attention to women, children and persons with disabilities in this process (Finland);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the UNICEF’s assistance, a draft plan on child protection in emergencies has been compiled. The plan will be incorporated in to the National Disaster Management Plans.
	100.87	Strengthen the role of the family in order to protect children from drugs and sexual exploitation,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular “Parenting and child abuse” awareness programmes are conducted to parents of runaway children and parents of children’s whose cases are reported to the Ministry of Gender, Family and

		and reduce juvenile delinquency (Qatar);	Human Rights. In addition, life skill programmes are conducted for children. “Child abuse prevention” awareness sessions are also conducted for school children and teachers.
	100.74	Continue efforts to prevent violence and sexual abuse against boys and girls, and increase its efforts to bring to justice those responsible (Argentina);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A behaviour change communication strategy was finalized in 2012 and a child abuse prevention campaign will be launched in 2013. In addition, awareness and advocacy programmes are implemented through Family and Children, Services Centres to ensure a vast majority of population are reached.
Housing	100.109	Take swift and efficient action to mitigate the adverse effects of the rising cost of housing in Malé through various measures, such as social benefits or microfinance schemes, in order to enhance the enjoyment of the right to adequate housing (Finland);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government is trying to mitigate the adverse effects of rising housing costs in Male’ by two ways. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing the number of available housing units, either through Government funding or by building public private partnerships. 2. Reducing the housing costs through cross subsidization of housing units under social housing schemes¹ • The government is also currently formulating a policy to increase the population’s access to housing, through a rights based approach. It will be focused on improving the housing conditions and making it affordable to the larger population. The biggest obstacle however to improving the housing sector is the lack of necessary laws, such as a Tenancy Act, Mortgage law, Condominium Strata law etc.

¹ Refer to Annex 1 and Annex 2 for details of social housing projects and other housing projects planned by the Government

	100.124	<p>Take all measures for the purpose of post-disaster reconstruction and adaptation to climate change, with a human-rights-based approach, and carry out consultations with the concerned local communities, giving special attention to women, children and persons with disabilities in this process (Finland)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 5th – 6th July 2013, disaster preparedness school forum for all Male’ school was held at Polytechnic Auditorium. A total of 160 students from 19 Male’ schools participated in the forum. The forum was organized by Centre for Higher Secondary Education in collaboration with National Disaster Management Center and Ministry of Education. The event was solely funded by UNICEF. The objective of the forum was to build awareness among students on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster preparedness, building a culture of safety and awareness at school level, to increase DRR knowledge, experiences and practices among students and teachers, enhance youth and children participation in DRR activities, to stimulate exchanges and understanding of disaster risk reduction issues in schools and to strengthen coordination and collaboration among the education sector and DRR implementing partners. • The post-disaster reconstruction and adaptation to climate change is already carried out in Maldives through a rights based, humanitarian approach, where special attention is given to vulnerable groups such as women, children and persons with disabilities. During reconstruction special attention is given to making it sustainable and resilient. Permanent housing will be provided to all Internally displaced people before the end of 2013
--	---------	--	---

Poverty	100.118	Continue to apply strategies and development plans at the socio-economic level throughout the country (Cuba);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An operational review of ICPD has been prepared with collaboration with UNFPA for the year 2012. It explores the progress, challenges and suggests the way forward for the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action. • Population Policy of the Maldives was prepared and published in July 2004. • Public awareness campaigns have been conducted every year while marking the World Population Day according to the theme of that year. This year’s theme was “adolescent pregnancy” • A Statistical Yearbook is published annually that collects information on several indicators in addition to the indicators that monitor the MDG goals. • A strategic action plan was prepared for the years 2009-2013 based on the manifesto of the party that won the elections for that term. It was focused on improving nationwide transport system, affordable living cost, affordable housing, affordable and quality healthcare for all and prevention of narcotics abuse and trafficking. • All the government offices are required to prepare a programmed budget for the coming year. • Act on Decentralisation has been passed by the parliament in the year 2010. It requires the local councils to prepare and submit to the Local Government Authority (LGA) of the Maldives a five year financial plan and a development plan of that particular island. So far, LGA has shared with us plans of 62 island/ward councils and 6 atoll council’s plans. • Workshops have been conducted in collaboration with LGA for 7
---------	---------	---	--

			atoll councils for far, to promote result based monitoring and evaluation of their development plans.
	100.117	Continue to allocate resources for effective poverty reduction measures (Ghana);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to non-governmental organisations and government offices, Human Rights Commission of the Maldives was invited for meetings and workshops to obtain their views, advice and guidance in making important decisions on national reports and decisions such as while selecting a goal for MDG Acceleration framework and while selecting a theme for the ongoing work of producing the National Human Development Report (NHDR) of Maldives. • The second NHDR is focused on the theme of “vulnerability and equity” • Two Household Income and Expenditure surveys have been conducted so far, to collect data at household level to calculate important indicators related to poverty and income inequality. The latest survey was conducted during 2009-2010. • Preparatory work is being carried out to conduct a nation-wide census during the coming year 2014. It will also cover a segment on the huge expatriate population that lives in the Maldives. • Small and Medium Enterprises bill has been passed by the parliament on 29 March 2013 with comments from DNP.

	100.119	<p>Continue its legislative, institutional and socio-economic reforms to provide an effective framework to address gender mainstreaming, violence against women, religious intolerance, particularly with regard to citizenship, freedom of speech, and human trafficking, and focus on the very key question of achieving the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, which will comprehensively address the key question of human rights (Nigeria);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maldives is currently in the process of producing the fourth country report on MDGs and the second country report on Human Development. • As 2015 is drawing closer, a workshop was conducted in 2013 to select targets that can be achieved within the short period in order to build an MDG Acceleration framework. In the process, Goal 1c – “Half between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger” - was identified and cabinet approval was obtained.
--	---------	--	--