

MALDIVES



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4. We have also intensified our efforts to end systemic corruption at all levels. The Maldives has in place, a Zero-Tolerance Policy to Corruption and in this respect, a Whistle-blower Protection Act has recently been enacted to promote good governance that prevents acts of corruption from occurring; reported instances of corruption can be anonymously lodged through a whistleblower portal. Significant amendments were brought to the Anti-Corruption Commission Act in 2020 to increase the transparency and accountability of members appointed to the Commission.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Maldives keeps working to achieve judicial independence. In 2019, the Judicial Service Commission adopted a policy to advocate transparency and give equal opportunity for new candidates to compete for courts. Amendments to the Judges Act have been proposed to enhance rules of conduct and set mandatory asset declaration rules for Judges This Amendment has been submitted to the Parliament, and is currently in the Committee Stage. Further, the Amendment to the Judicial Service Commission's Act revamps procedures regarding disciplinary hearings against sitting Judges, and established an appeal process for disciplinary decisions against sitting Judges.



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increasing access to justice for our citizens and demonstrating our ongoing commitment to the international community to be held accountable for violations.

12. We are also in the final stages of ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and have officially withdrawn some reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

13. At home, we have taken steps to further align our domestic laws with our international human rights obligations by amending the Anti-Human Trafficking Act and enacting the Child Rights Protection Act and the Juvenile Justice Act, all of which enhances the legal framework pertaining to child rights.

Mr. Chair,

14. We are committed to a Maldives that is free of corruption and human rights abuses. We are also committed to give attention to the needs of the local populations and gender equality, as well as the promotion of the rule of law both nationally and internationally.

15. The Maldives looks forward to collaborating with our international partners on this issue, since multilateralism and cooperation have never been so vital in order to advance the rule of law for all.

I thank you.