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Remarks by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

22nd session of the WG on UPR

UPR of Maldives

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Mr. President,

Azerbaijan warmly welcomes the Delegation of the Maldives and thanks the esteemed Delegation for the presentation of its report.

Azerbaijan welcomes wide national consultations on UPR recommendation with participation of the UPR Standing Committee, which includes representation from a wide range of Government agencies, the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives, and representation from the civil society.

It should be emphasized that we are aware of the fact that the Maldives being a small island nation is vulnerable to the negative impacts of the climate change which undermines a wide range of human rights in the country as highlighted in its national report. In this regard, we welcome adoption of the Maldives Climate Change Policy Framework which presents four strategic goals and provides a pathway for an integrated approach in this field.

Azerbaijan notes with appreciation that over the last five decades, the Maldives has made remarkable progress on economic and human development. In January 2011, the Maldives graduated from the United Nations List of Least Developed Countries – only the third to move out from the group since 1971.

We positively note the high level of interaction and cooperation between Maldives and OHCHR. The recent visit of the delegation led by Mona Rishmawi, the head of the rule of law, equality and non-discrimination branch of OHCHR once again demonstrate the importance that Maldives attaches to UN human rights mechanisms. In this regard, we **recommend** Maldives to continue active cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

Finally, the Delegation of Azerbaijan would like to assure once again the Delegation of Maldives of its support and cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. President.