



**Statement by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the Second Cycle Universal UPR
Working Group Session of the Maldives**

Mr. President

Ethiopia welcomes the delegation of the Maldives to the 22nd UPR Session. We thank the delegation for the well-elaborated national report and the oral update. The report clearly states the level of implementation of recommendations and challenges faced since the first cycle of UPR review of the country.

In this regard, we note with satisfaction the Maldives progress in implementing the recommendations of the Council on civil, political and economic rights, including encouraging results obtained in the field of education, commendable efforts in providing adequate and affordable housing, achievements of MDG goals number 4 and 5, as well as for the amendments made on the Penal Code of the country to make it compatible with international human rights obligations.

While commending Maldives commitment to address inequality among people, bring about sustainable economic development and measures undertaken to bring national laws in line with international human rights obligations of the country and protect religious minorities to worship freely. We recommend Maldives to further facilitate favourable ground for minority religious groups to choose, change and follow their own religion or belief without any form of restrictions.

Finally, we wish all the best to the delegation of the Maldives in its engagement with the Human Rights Council UPR Working Group.

Thank you