**27th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**1st – 12th May 2017, Geneva**

**Review of Finland**

**3rd May 2017**

Statement by:

 Her Excellency Dr Hala Hameed, Ambassador |

Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation from Finland to this review.

The Maldives commends Finland on the creation of a Non-Discrimination Ombudsman and National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal as a measure to ensure the rights of its citizens are not infringed. Finnish efforts to curtail hate speech and harassment is also commendable.

The Maldives recommends that the Government of Finland:

1. Undertake efforts to strengthen the education system through the provision of mandatory training on human rights education;
2. Continue consultations on the rights of people with disabilities with a view to implement non-discriminatory policies and legislation; and
3. Establish and promote culture-sensitive initiatives to provide services for minority groups such as Roma and the Sàmi and for migrants and refugees.

To conclude, we wish Finland success during this review.

Thank you Mr. President.