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

**1-12 May 2017, Geneva**

**Review of Netherlands**

**10 May 2017**

Statement by:

Ms Aishath Shahula, First Secretary

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation from Netherlands to this review. We express our appreciation for today’s presentation, and take positive note of the national report.

The Maldives is encouraged by the numerous initiatives taken by the Government to combat (sexual) exploitation of children. The Maldives also welcomes the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Netherlands in June 2016.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Strengthen policies for access to health-care services especially for children with low economic and social status and undocumented children.
2. Step up its policies to address racial discrimination, racial profiling and hate speech especially against Muslim women, minority group women and asylum-seeking women.
3. Enhance gender equality by reducing gender pay gap and increased employment opportunities for women through the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To conclude, we wish the Government of Netherlands every success during this review.

Thank you Mr. President.