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

**1-12 May 2017, Geneva**

**Review of Philippines**

**8 May 2017**

Statement by:

Mr Jeffrey Salim Waheed

| Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation from Philippines to this review. We express our appreciation for today’s presentation and the national report.

The Maldives is encouraged by Philippine’s efforts in prompting gender equality in the country including the Women EDGE Plan and other various other initiatives undertaken by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW).

The Maldives also recognizes the Government’s efforts in assuring a better-quality education, through the adoption of new legislations.

The Maldives makes the following recommendations to the Government of Philippines:

1. Enact legislations aligned with international standards to combat the use of illegal drugs
2. Continue its efforts to tackle human trafficking, especially of children, through effective implementation of the “Recovery and Reintegration Programme for Trafficked Persons”.

To conclude, we wish Philippines every success in this review.

Thank you Mr. President.