**44th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**Azerbaijan**

**14 November 2023**

Statement by:

H.E. Dr. Asim Ahmed

Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

We welcome the distinguished delegation from Azerbaijan to this fourth cycle review and thank the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends Azerbaijan for its commitment to advancing human rights through the adoption of the "Action Plan for Azerbaijan for 2022-2025" which aims to further enhance the legislation and institutions in Azerbaijan. Furthermore, we applaud Azerbaijan for the adoption of the “Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Children for 2020-2030”, a significant initiative aimed at improving the current legal framework and improving conditions for children.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, the Maldives makes the following two recommendations:

1. Intensify efforts to ensure universal and equal access to quality primary and secondary education throughout the country.
2. Continue strengthening social protection systems and increase social benefits for the unemployed, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

We wish Azerbaijan a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. President.