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

**Colombia**

**07 November 2023**

Statement by:

Ms. Mizna Waheed

Third Secretary of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the high-level delegation from Colombia to this fourth cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends Colombia for the significant efforts made during the review period to promote human rights. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the National Plan of Action to Combat Violence against Children, an initiative aimed at enhancing the individual circumstances and protective environments in which children and adolescents grow and develop.

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

1. Intensify efforts to ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to justice and other specialised services.

2. Strengthen access to education and enhance the retention rate of girls in schools and higher education institutions.

We wish Colombia a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. President.