**45th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**Congo**

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Statement by:

Ms. Shifaya Ibrahim

Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

 *Check against delivery*

Thank you Mr. President,

We extend a warm welcome to the delegation from the Republic of Congo for the fourth cycle review and express our gratitude for their insightful presentation today.

The Maldives welcomes the revision of Congo’s National Policy for Social Action which is contributing to the strengthening of the national child protection system. We further commend the steps undertaken to implement measures to help students with disabilities integrate into the formal education system.

In a constructive spirit, the Maldives recommends that the Government of the Republic of the Congo:

1. Increase the availability of training and capacity-building programmes for women wishing to enter political life or hold public office.
2. To improve school infrastructure in rural and remote areas to ensure access for girls to high-quality education.

We wish the Republic of Congo every success in the upcoming review.

Thank you, Mr. President.