**46th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Vanuatu**

**2 May 2024**

**Statement by:**

Dr. Salma Rasheed, Chargé d’affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation of Vanuatu and appreciates their engagement in the 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

The Maldives commends the Government of Vanutatu for its steadfast dedication to combat gender discrimination and violence against women, specifically through the implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy 2020 to 2030 and the establishment of the “Women in Education Leadership Network”.

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

1. Adopt programmes to reduce women’s unemployment and promote women’s access to employment in the formal sector.
2. Make primary and secondary education compulsory and ensure equitable access to quality education for all.

We wish Vanuatu success in the upcoming review.

I thank you, Mr. President