**48th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**The Gambia**

**21 January 2025**

Remarks by:

Mr. Adam Hamid,

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

 *Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation from The Gambia to this fourth cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends The Gambia for the significant efforts made during the review period to enhance human rights. In this regard, we welcome policies and legal frameworks that are now in place to ensure greater access to justice for women and girls who are victims of violence.

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

1. Enhance training and mentorship programs to empower women and girls to participate in political and public life, thereby advancing gender equality and equitable representation.
2. Intensify the development of adult literacy programs for vulnerable groups prioritising rural areas, and ensure systematic evaluation of these programs for their impact and effectiveness.

We wish The Gambia a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. President,