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

**Italy**

**20 January 2025**

Remarks by:

H.E. Dr. Salma Rasheed, Ambassador and Permanent Representative 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 warmly welcomes the high-level delegation from Italy to this fourth cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends Italy’s efforts to combat climate change. In this regard, we welcome the implementation of the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change and introduction of initiatives such as tax deduction for energy-efficient building renovations, and the establishment of National Energy Efficiency Fund.

In constructive spirit, Maldives makes the following two recommendations:

1. Continue to ensure that social protection programs are designed to meet the diverse needs of persons with disabilities, ensuring equal access and support.
2. Strengthen its efforts to ensure access to education for all children without discrimination, in particular children belonging to ethnic minorities.

We wish Italy a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. President.