**2**8th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**6-17 November 2017, Geneva**

**Review of Zambia**

**13 November 2017**

Statement by:

Ms Aishath Shahula

First Secretary/ Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the high level delegation of Zambia to this review. We express our appreciation for today’s presentation, and take positive note of the national report presented.

We commend Zambian Government’s commitment for the advancement of women with the enaction of the Gender Equity and Equality [Act No.22] in 2015 and the establishment of Gender Equality and Equity Commission. We also welcome the positive measures taken by the Zambian Government on strengthening Independent public accountability mechanisms notably, the establishment of the National Prosecution Authority (NPA).

We are further encouraged by the efforts taken by the Government of Zambia to ensure effective implementation of the Anti-Gender-Based-Violence Act and the implementation of the “He for She” campaign through the ‘Boys to Men Project’ to include men and boys in the fight against Gender-based violence.

The Maldives recommends Zambia to :

1. Consider adopting additional measures to promote and protect the Rights of Persons with disabilities
2. Continue and Strengthen efforts to prevent and eliminate child marriage

We wish the Zambian delegation every success during this review.

Thank you, Mr. President