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

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**Review of Ghana**

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Statement by:

Mr Jeffrey Salim Waheed,

Minister |Deputy Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the high-level delegation from Ghana to this third cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

We commend the Ghanaian Government’s commitment to implementing the recommendations received from previous UPR sessions.

The Maldives aslo welcomes Ghana’s 2016 ratifications to the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). We also commend Ghana’s efforts to end Child Marriage most notably the 2016 launch of the National End Child Marriage Project.

We are further encouraged by the Government’s implementation of the Free Senior High School Education, the Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education and the Capitation Grant programmes to eliminate school fees.

The Maldives recommends that the Government of Ghana establish relevant mechanisms, procedures and guidelines to end child sexual expolitation and child labour.

We wish the Ghanaian delegation every success during this review.

Thank you, Mr. President