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

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**Review of Sri Lanka**

**15 November 2017**

Statement by:

Her Excellency Dr Hala Hameed, Ambassador |

Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

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

We welcome the Sri Lankan Government’s National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) 2017-2021 and the efforts to finalize the new Bill of Rights as part of the constitutional reforms. We are also encouraged by the Government’s efforts to promote rights and entitlements of victims of crime and witnesses through the enactment of the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witness Act of 2015.

The Maldives further welcomes Sri Lanka’s ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and acknowledges efforts to adopt legislation in this regard.

Maldives recommends Sri Lanka to :

1. Continue to take measures to end all forms of violence against women and expedite the finalization of the ammendments to the Domestic Violence Act.
2. Continue to strengthen and reform the social protection system to cover all persons, including those from the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

We wish Sri Lanka every success at this Review.

Thank you, Mr. President!