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

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**Review of Switzerland**

**9 November 2017**

Statement by:

Her Excellency Dr Hala Hameed, Ambassador |

Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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Thank you, Mr. President,

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

The Maldives commends Switzerland for the positive measures taken in the promortion and protection of Rights of Older persons where we welcome the “Old-Age Provision 2020” reform and also the recent launch of the National Conference on Older Workers. The Maldives also welcomes the effective implementation of the National Action Plan against trafficking in persons. The Maldives is further encouraged by Switzerland’s active partipation in the discussion of Human Rights of Enviornment and Climate Change issues at the Human Rights Council.

While acknowledging the efforts by Swiss authorities, we believe that Human Rights can be always be improved in every country, In this spirit, the Maldives wish to make the following recommendations to Switzerland:

1. Continue efforts to ensure that children with disabilities had access to early childhood education and care, early development programmes and inclusive vocational training opportunities in all cantons.
2. Continue to strengthen efforts to ensure equality of opportunity and eliminate the gender wage gap.

Thank you, Mr. President