**37th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Australia**

**20 January 2021**

Statement by:

Thank you, Mr/Madam President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the high-level delegation from Australia to this third cycle review and thank them for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends the Australian Government on the announcement of a domestic violence support package for women and children during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also congratulate the government on the establishment of a Standing National Human Rights Mechanism to strengthen its human rights reporting.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives makes the following two recommendations to Australia.

1. Promote equal pay and reduce the gender wage gap by promoting equal opportunities.

2. Strengthen efforts to combat and prevent violence against women to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice

We wish Australia a successful review. Thank you, Mr/Madam President