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

**Lebanese Republic**

**18 January 2021**

Statement by:

Hawla Ahmed Didi – Deputy Permanent Representative

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam. President,

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

The Maldives commends Lebanon for the consultative approach taken in the preparation of its national report and acknowledges the measures undertaken by the Lebanese Government to promote and protect the rights of its people despite the deteriorating economic situation in the country. We specifically welcome the establishment of a national mechanism for preparing reports and following up on recommendations from international bodies. The Maldives also commends the accession of Lebanon to several international treaties and agreements such as the Arms Trade Treaty and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives makes the following recommendations:

1. Amend the provisions of the Social Security Act to ensure equal access to the National Social Security Fund

2. Ensure that the National Commission for Human Rights and the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture are provided with the necessary resources to conduct their work independently.

We wish Lebanon a successful review. Thank you, Madam. President