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

**18-29 January 2021**

**Republic of Rwanda**

**25 January 2021**

Statement by:

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam. President,

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

The Maldives commends Rwanda for the measures taken to promote human rights and welcomes the policies implemented to promote gender equality in the Cabinet, Parliament and the Senate. We further take positive note of the work invested to close gender pay gap and increase representation of women in managerial positions.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives makes the following two recommendations to Rwanda;

1. Increase public awareness on media policy and other various laws and regulations in place to expand media freedom

2. Continue to implement decentralized outreach activities at all levels to facilitate the population, including vulnerable groups, to have access to quality and affordable justice.

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