**38th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Latvia**

**11 May 2021**

Statement by:

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*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam President,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation from Latvia to this review. We express our appreciation for today’s presentation and the national report submitted.

The Maldives commends Latvia’s progress in the promotion of gender equality and congratulate Latvia on its first National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Latvia for 2020-2025. We are also encouraged by the Government’s commitment to the promotion of human rights, by increasing funding to the Ombudsman Office.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives makes the following two recommendations:

1. Strengthen efforts in enforcing equal pay for equal work.

2. Continue efforts in ensuring access to education for all children and ensure that no child is refused admission to schools based on disability.

To conclude, we wish Latvia a successful review.

Thank you, Madam. President