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

**Republic of the Seychelles**

**10 May 2021**

Statement by:

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*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam. President,

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

Maldives welcomes the progress made by Seychelles to advance human rights and commends the government for raising climate ambitions through its revised and scaled up Nationally Determined Contributions and for the efforts to increase awareness and mitigate the effects of climate change.

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

1. Take all necessary measures to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

2. Update the strategy on gender-based violence and adopt a new adequately funded national action plan on gender-based violence ,including domestic violence.

We wish our fellow Small Island Developing State, Seychelles a successful review.

Thank you, Madam. President