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

**Republic of the Sierra Leone**

**12 May 2021**

Statement by:

Ms. Hawla Ahmed Didi

Deputy Permanent Representative

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam President,

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

The Maldives welcomes the progress made by Sierra Leone to advance human rights domestically and commends the rapid response measures implemented by the government to attend to the current pandemic, particularly the approach adopted in their response efforts to save the lives and livelihoods of its people.

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

1. Allocate more funds towards establishing a comprehensive social protection system to curb the impacts of natural disasters on vulnerable groups in the society such as women, and persons with disabilities, by ensuring their social and economic rights.

2. Sustain efforts for the effective implementation of the National Medium-Term Development Plan 2018-2023 by using the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the guiding framework.

We wish Sierra Leone a successful review.

Thank you, Madam President.