**39th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

**8 November 2021**

Statement by: Mr. Hassan Hussain Shihab  
Counsellor | Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Offices’ in Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the high-level delegation of Antigua and Barbuda to this review. We express our appreciation for the submission of Antigua and Barbuda’s national report and engagement in the UPR process.

As a fellow Small Island Developing State, the Maldives commends Antigua and Barbuda for its leadership in the area of environmental commitments including the ban on single use plastics since 2018, being the first country in the region to do so. We also applaud Antigua and Barbuda’s commitment to eliminating net emissions to zero by 2050. These commitments are ambitious steps forward in ensuring that the development of the country is in line with protecting the environment and planet for future generations.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives presents the following two recommendations to Antigua and Barbuda:

1. Intensify efforts to enhance awareness among women of their rights under the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women.

2. Integrate children with disabilities in regular schools by giving particular attention to the training of specialists for children with intellectual and psychological disabilities.

We wish Antigua and Barbuda a successful review.

Thank you, Madam President.