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

**Eswatini**

**3 November 2021**

Statement by: Dr. Asim Ahmed  
Ambassador | Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Offices’ in Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam President,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation from Eswatini to this review. We express our appreciation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends Eswatini for enacting the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act and welcomes the provisions concerning sexual offences and domestic violence, prevention and the protection of all persons from harm and acts of domestic violence amongst others.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives presents the following two recommendations to Eswatini:

1. Guarantee free and fair elections by ensuring the independence of bodies responsible for elections and anti-corruption.

2. Improve conditions of detention facilities and bring the regulations governing prison conditions into line with international standards such as the Nelson Mandela Rules.

We wish Eswatini a successful review.

Thank you, Madam President.