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

**Greece**

**1 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 warmly welcomes the high-level delegation from Greece to this third cycle review and thank them for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends Greece for the action taken to promote substantive gender equality, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to prevent and combat gender-based violence. We commend Greece for electing a woman as the President of the Hellenic Republic for the first time in 2020. This is believed to be a result of increasing the gender quota for parliamentary elections to at least 40% in 2018.

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

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure

2. Strengthen efforts to achieve gender parity in public administration

We wish Greece a successful review.

Thank you, Madam President.