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

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

**2 November 2021**

Statement by: Ms. Hawla Ahmed Didi

Deputy Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Offices’ in Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam President,

The Maldives welcomes the high-level delegation from the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to this review and express our appreciation for today’s presentation and the national report submitted.

The Maldives commends Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for enacting several noteworthy human-rights related legislation during this review period, notably, the Domestic Violence Act, Child Justice Act, Children’s Act, Cybercrime Act, Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Consumer Protection Act among other laws. These Acts reflect the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines’ firm commitment to uphold human rights standards and fundamental freedoms in the country.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives presents the following two recommendations to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:

1. Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years for boys and girls.

2. Develop policies and programmes on climate change and disaster risk management by conducting consultations with the public.

We wish the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines a successful review.

Thank you, Madam President.