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

**Samoa**

**2 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 of Samoa – a fellow Small Island Developing State and a member of AOSIS, to this review. We express our appreciation for the submission of Samoa’s national report and engagement in the UPR process.

The Maldives commends Samoa for expanding the definition of security in their 2018 National Security Policy to cover not only border security and transnational crimes, but also climate change and human security. We see this as a positive step forward in mainstreaming climate resilience across all sectors of development.

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

1. Increase efforts to incorporate the principles of core human rights treaties that are ratified by the country into domestic laws.

2. Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 18 years, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We wish Samoa a successful review.

Thank you, Madam President