**40th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Haiti**

**31 January 2022**

Statement by:

H.E. Asim Ahmed

Permanent Representative

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation from Haiti – a fellow Small Island Developing State, to this review. We express our appreciation to the Haitian government for its constructive engagement in this process.

The Maldives take positive note of Haiti's developments since the second cycle of the UPR, especially to combat violence against women. In this regard, we acknowledge the passing of a bill on the prevention, punishment and elimination of violence against women and girls; and the adoption of the National Plan to combat violence against women and girls 2017-2027. We hope that adequate resources will be allocated to implement this plan.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives makes the following two recommendations:

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

2. Address disaster risk reduction and climate change by developing and adopting targeted laws, policies, and implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies.

We wish the delegation of Haiti every success during this review.

Thank you, Mr President.