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

**Iceland**

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Statement by:

Ms. Hawla Ahmed Didi

Deputy Permanent Representative of Maldives to the UN and other International Organisations at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the high-level delegation from Iceland to this third cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends Iceland for the work undertaken to promote and protect the rights of its people. In this regard, we take positive note of the commitment made by the government of Iceland to achieve carbon neutrality before 2040 and to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 under the Paris Agreement.

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

1. Take appropriate measures to reduce the inequalities that exist in the education system to address the challenges faced by children with disabilities and special needs.

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

We wish Iceland a fruitful review. Thank you, Mr. President