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

**Togo**

**24 January 2022**

Statement by:

H.E. Dr Asim Ahmed

Ambassador / 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 the Togolese Republic to this third cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives acknowledges the efforts made by the Government of Togo to advance human rights domestically and commends the progress made since the last UPR cycle, to promote gender equality by developing and implementing national programmes on women’s leadership. We would also like to welcome the efforts made by the government to provide persons deprived of liberty with better conditions of detention, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

1. To incorporate a human rights-based approach in the development of the National Social Protection Policy for the period 2020-2029 aimed at universal social protection and to ensure that adequate resources are available to implement this policy.

2. To adopt a national anti-corruption strategy to ensure that all acts of corruption are investigated independently and impartially and that perpetrators are brought to justice.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

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