**41st Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

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Remarks by:

Hawla Ahmed Didi

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives at the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the high-level delegation from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends the efforts made by the United Kingdom to combat Violence Against Women and Girls, including the introduction of new offenses to criminalize certain controlling or coercive behavior. We also welcome the steps taken to strengthen the Domestic Abuse Act in 2021.

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

1. Continue to strengthen the legal and institutional systems on environmental protection, in particular with respect to the right to a Healthy Environment.
2. Enhance efforts to further narrow the gender pay gap.

We wish the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland every success at this review.

Thank you, Mr. President.