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

**Republic of India**

**10 November 2022**

Remarks by:

H.E. Dr. Asim Ahmed

Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the high-level delegation from the Republic of India to the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

India is our neighbour, our friend, and our development partner. The Maldives has been a beneficiary of India’s development assistance and its capacity building programmes. This assistance was particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Maldives commends India for the significant achievements it has made in promoting and protecting the rights of its over 1 billion people, in the largest democracy in the world. In particular, the Maldives welcomes the significant measures taken to decrease its environmental footprint, including banning the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single use plastics.

The Maldives is confident that India will continue to make progress in the promotion and protection of human rights, as guaranteed by its Constitution.

We wish India every success at this review. Thank you, Mr. President.