**42nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group**

**Czechia**

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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. Vice President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation from Czechia to this fourth cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends the efforts made by Czechia to implement the recommendations from the preceding review. We welcome the adoption of the Government Strategy for Gender Equality 2021- 2030 to address issues related to equal representation in decision making positions, combating gender-based violence and the gender pay gap.

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

1. Strengthen the office of the Ombudsperson and accelerate progress towards establishing a national human rights institution.

2. Further strengthen efforts to combat violence against women and raise awareness on available assistance and protection.

We wish Czechia a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

Link to reports: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/cz-index>