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

**Guatemala**

**25 January 2023**

Remarks by:

Mr. Hassan Hussain Shihab

Counsellor

 *Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. Vice President,

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

The Maldives commends the efforts made by Guatemala to implement the recommendations from the preceding review. We welcome the adoption of the implementation strategy for the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and for conducting awareness-raising campaigns based on consultations with civil society groups.

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

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

2. Strengthen efforts to fully investigate cases of violence against women and allocate sufficient resources to victim care centres.

We wish Guatemala a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

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