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

**Republic of Benin**

**26 January 2023**

Statement by:

Ms. Aminath Shifaya

Counsellor

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam Vice President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the high-level delegation from the Republic of Benin to this fourth cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends the efforts made by Benin to improve the human rights situation in the country. We would like to highlight the work undertaken to implement the National Development Plan that resulted in developing relevant policies on health, employment, social protection and education.

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

1. Continue to conduct awareness raising programmes to encourage girls to enrol in school.
2. Increase efforts to end violence against women by providing specialised training to all actors involved in victim support.

We wish Benin a successful review. Thank you, Madam Vice President.