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

**Zambia**

**30 January 2023**

Remarks by:

Ms. Fathika Fayaz

Second Secretary

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. Vice President,

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

The Maldives takes positive note of Zambia’s work in the promotion and protection of human rights since the third cycle of the UPR, especially to promote gender equality, women’s empowerment, and children’s rights. In this regard, we welcome the enactment of the Children’s Code Act 2022, the *National Gender Policy,* and the *National Referral Mechanism on Gender Based Violence* to combat violence against women and girls.

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

1. Increase access to quality secondary and tertiary education to improve learning outcomes of children and youth
2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

We wish Zambia a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

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