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

**Japan**

**31 January 2023**

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 distinguished delegation from Japan to this fourth cycle review and thanks the delegation for their constructive engagement today.

Maldives commends the efforts made by the Government of Japan to promote and protect human rights nationally. In this regard, we note the progress made since the last UPR cycle to advance the rights of persons with disabilities. We also welcome the measures taken to promote human rights education by conducting human rights awareness-raising activities for civil servants and the judiciary.

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

1. Continue implementing measures to eliminate discrimination against women and promote women’s empowerment.
2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

We wish Japan a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. President.