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

**Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

**1 February 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 high-level delegation from Sri Lanka to the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives congratulates the Government of Sri Lanka for introducing a policy for Gender Mainstreaming in all sectoral Ministries that includes the establishment of gender focal points, gender-responsive budgeting and anti-sexual harassment committees. We also commend the efforts made by Sri Lanka in rolling out a strong vaccination program against the COVID-19 virus with above 80% coverage of their total population.

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

1. Take appropriate measures to ensure access to mental health services and conduct mental health awareness campaigns to educate communities.
2. Implement policies aimed at overcoming challenges faced by climate change in line with global targets.

We wish the delegation of Sri Lanka every success at this review.

Thank you, Mr. President.