**43rd Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**United Arab Emirates**

**08 May 2023**

Statement 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 the United Arab Emirates to this fourth cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends UAE for the commitment made to combat climate change by reaching the global target for nature reserves. We also welcome the efforts made to promote biodiversity conservation through initiatives like the ‘Smart Map of Natural Capital,’ an interactive interface which helps in making informed policy decisions regarding land use and investments.

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

1. Strengthen national laws to promote and advance women’s empowerment.
2. Continue to take measures to enhance representation of women in leadership positions in all sectors.

We wish the delegation from United Arab Emirates a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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