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

**Republic of Serbia**

**10 May 2023**

Statement by:

Maryam Fathika Fayaz

Second Secretary

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

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

The Maldives commends Serbia’s efforts to combat climate change. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the Law on Climate Change and the establishment of the National Council for Climate Change.

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

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure.
2. Conduct a nation-wide survey on the prevalence and causes of gender-based violence, with a special focus on women, girls, and the elderly.

We wish the Republic of Serbia a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. President.