**2**9th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**15 - 26 January 2018, Geneva**

**Review of Bahamas**

**17 January 2018**

Statement by:

Mr. Jeffrey Salim Waheed,

Minister | Deputy Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives extends a warm welcome to the delegation of the Bahamas to this review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives welcomes the various legislation adopted by the Bahamas towards promoting and protecting the rights of women and children, and we commend the measures taken to address gender-based violence.

We further welcome their ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and commend the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity) Act, in 2014. The Maldives is also encouraged by the introduction of the National Health Insurance scheme allowing accessible quality healthcare for all.

In a constructive spirit, the Maldives recommends that the Bahamas continues efforts to establish an enabling environment for persons with disabilities in the mainstream education system.

We wish the Bahamas every success at this review.

Thank you, Mr. President