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

**15 - 26 January 2018, Geneva**

**Review of Botswana**

**17 January 2018**

Statement by:

Ms. Aishath Shahula, First Secretary |

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation of Botswana to this review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

We welcome Botswana’s Vision 2036 National Development Plan with the all-encompassing theme “Achieving Prosperity for All”. The Maldives is encouraged by the steps taken by the Government of Botswana to eradicate poverty with the introduction of Youth Empowerment Scheme as well as the Women’s Economic Empowerment Programme.

We commend Botswana’s efforts to combat HIV/AIDS as a national priority with the launching of the ‘Treat All Strategy’ in June 2016 and also the capacity building efforts conducted in collaboration with development partners.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives recommends Botswana to:

1. Continue to strengthen measures to combat human trafficking by providing trainings to service providers and stakeholders working with victims of human trafficking.
2. Continue efforts to implement CEDAW obligations and promote and protect the rights of women.

We wish Botswana every success at this Review. Thank you, Mr. President.