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

**15 - 26 January 2018, Geneva**

**Review of Serbia**

**24 January 2018**

Statement by:

Miss Aishath Shahula, First Secretary

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

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the delegation of Serbia to its review under the third cycle of the UPR and we thank the delegation for their presentation today.

We welcome Serbia’s commitment to combating domestic violence through the adoption of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Violence Against Women and Young Girls in the Family and Partnership Relations. The Maldives also commends the Government of Serbia’s continued efforts to improve the status of women by establishing the Coordination Body for Gender Equality.

We are further encouraged by the adoption of the Strategy for Water Management with the aim of attaining a cohesive and sustainable water sector, further ensuring the right to a healthy environment and to water and sanitation.

In a constructive spirit, the Maldives presents the following recommendation to the the Government of Serbia:

1. Continue to ensure non-discriminatory and adequate maternal healthcare for Roma mothers and young children;

We wish the delegation from Serbia every success at this Review. Thank you, Mr. President