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

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**Review of Mali**

**16 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 warmly welcomes the delegation of Mali to this review and thanks the delegation for its presentation today.

The Maldives welcomes the steps taken by the Government of Mali in the promotion and protection of Human Rights including through the enactment of laws and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in 2016.

We are further encouraged by Mali’s commitment to bring an end to female genital mutilation through national programmes to combat excision and by marking a National Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation.

The Maldives also welcomes the legislation enacted in December 2015, which seeks to promote gender equality and introduces measures for women to access elective and appointive posts.

The Maldives presents the following recommendations to Mali:

1. Continue efforts to combat and protect women against all forms of sexual violence, including child, early and forced marriage,
2. Continue to improve access to education for all Malians at an early age.

We wish the delegation from Mali every success at this review.

Thank you, Mr. President