**30**th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

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**Turkmenistan**

**7 May 2018**

Statement by:

Her Excellency Dr Hala Hameed, 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 high-level delegation of Turkmenistan to this third cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends Turkmenistan for implementing the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, in 2011. Further we would like to congratulate Turkmenistan for Adopting the “State Guarantees of Equal Rights on Women Act” in 2015, which establishes State guarantees regarding equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men in all spheres of public and social life.

The Maldives is further encouraged by Turkmenistan’s strategy for opening new faculties at the State Medical University and developing 130 undergraduate and 47 postgraduate programs. Education is a pivotal component of a bright future for the health care system in a nation.

The Maldives wishes to present two recommendations to the Government of Turkmenistan:

1. To expand programs and initiatives to eliminate negative stereotypes and prejudice against persons with disabilities in society.
2. Continue its efforts together with UNICEF, in improving ways and means of protecting children’s’ rights by implementing their program on the development of the juvenile justice system.

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