**33rd Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Portugal**

**8 May 2019**

Statement by:

DPR Hawla Didi

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives extends a warm welcome to the high-level delegation of Portugal to this third cycle UPR and takes positive note of the presentation today.

The Maldives is encouraged by the efforts of the Government of Portugal to protect the human rights of its people by reflecting SDG’s in its national strategies and policies. In this regard, we welcome the presentation of the National Voluntary Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in 2017.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives presents the following two recommendations to the Government of Portugal:

1. Continue to review the mechanisms for responding to complaints of racial discrimination, and develop further positive measures to promote full and effective equality and non-discrimination.
2. Continue to address the gaps in social protection coverage and ensure that the social assistance system effectively targeted those at high risk of poverty.

We wish Portugal every success at this review.

Thank you, Mr. President.