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

**Review of Bhutan**

**8 May 2019**

Statement by:

Ambassador Hala Hameed

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

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

The Maldives recognizes the measures taken by the Government of Bhutan to implement the recommendations made in the second cycle. We commend Bhutan for the efforts taken to strengthen rule of law and good governance; and appreciate the progressive policies implemented towards environmental conservation and sustainable development.

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

1. Continue to implement interventions to reduce income disparity and inequalities.
2. Step-up measures to ensure that children are not exploited in any form, and that the rights of the child are protected and promoted. .

We wish Bhutan every success at this review.

Thank you, Mr. President.