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

**6 May 2019 – 17 May 2019, Geneva**

**Review of Côte d’Ivoire**

**7 May 2019**

Statement by:

Ambassador Hala Hameed

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the delegation of Côte d’Ivoire to this third cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

Maldives welcomes the efforts by the Government of Côte d’Ivoire to stabilize the country and boost economic growth. We also take note of the progress made by Côte d’Ivoire in the field of education and health care.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives recommends Côte d’Ivoire to :

1. Amend provisions in the Criminal Code and the Law on the Press to provide the right to freedom of expression without fear of reprisals, arrest or detention.
2. Continue its efforts to promote girls’ access to education, their retention and their return to education if they dropped out, and to combat the main reasons why they dropped out of education.

We wish Côte d’Ivoire every success at this Review. Thank you, Mr. President