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

**Democratic Republic of Congo**

**06 May 2019**

Statement by:

DPR Hawla Ahmed Didi

*Check against delivery*

The Maldives welcomes the delegation of Democratic Republic of Congo to this third cycle UPR and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives would like to congratulate the Government of DRC for the first peaceful democratic transfer of power in the country since gaining independence. Maldives appreciates the efforts by the Government of DRC to rebuild a democratic nation, that respects rights of its people and end discrimination.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives presents the following two recommendations to DRC:

1. Take necessary steps to ensure that laws and regulations are in full compliance with the DRC’s international obligations with respect to freedom of assembly, association and expression.

2. Continue collaboration with UN system and international partners in consolidating peace, stability and development of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We wish DRC a fruitful review.

Thank you, Mr. President