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

**Kingdom of Norway**

**06 May 2019**

Statement by:

Ambassador Hala Hameed

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the high-level delegation from the Kingdom of Norway to this third cycle review and thanks the delegation for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends Norway for all the efforts and measures taken to promote and protect the rights of its people. In this regard, we take positive note of the strategic plan for 2020–2030 developed in December 2018 to promote equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. The Maldives would like to highlight that Norway has been one of the leading countries in providing development assistance and appreciate the decision made by the government to maintain aid at 1% of the gross national income.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations;

1. Continue efforts to improve mechanisms for mental health care especially for vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities and children.

2. Continue to adopt substantive measures against all forms of racial and religious discrimination, in particular, Islamophobia and xenophobia.

We wish Norway a fruitful review. Thank you, Mr. President