**34th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Italy**

**04 November 2019**

Statement by:

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the high-level delegation from Italy to this third cycle review and thank them for their presentation today.

The Maldives commends Italy for implementing 153 out of 176 recommendations accepted under the 2nd cycle, to promote and protect the rights of its people. In this regard, we welcome the National Plan of Action against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and encourage the government to allocate adequate financial and human resources to the implementation of this plan.

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

1. Establish an independent national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights coherent with the Paris Principles

2. Stregthen comprehensive measures to reduce the significant number of school dropouts, especially in high school.

We wish Italy a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. President