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

**Gambia**

**05 November 2019**

Statement by: Ms Hawla Ahmed Didi, Deputy Permanent Representative

*Check against delivery*

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Gambia to this review. We express our appreciation for the national report and the constructive engagement in this process.

The Maldives welcomes the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission in full compliance with the Paris Principles. We also note the newly established Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare established to further improve women’s status in the political, economic and social life.

The Maldives wishes to make the following two recommendations:

1. Intensify efforts to improve health services, through allocation of increased resources to the health sector, to ensure training of health extension workers and provision of adequate medical equipment and supplies to health facilities.
2. Step up the efforts to combat female genital mutilation (FGM) and early child marriages

We wish the delegation of Gambia all the success during this review.

Thank you Mr. President.