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

**Plurinational State of Bolivia**

**05 November 2019**

Statement by: Ms Shahiya A Manik, First Secretary

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

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

The Maldives recognises the measure taken by the Government of Bolivia to reduce poverty and inequalities in the country. It is important to highlight that a number of public policies has been introduced to improve the quality of life of the general population.

We note the progressive laws that have been put in place to reduce gender-based violence and advance the participation of women in public sphere. In this regard, Maldives recommends the government to familiarize State officials with the Act on Political Harassment and Violence against Women to ensure the effective implementation of the Act.

Furthermore, we acknowledge that the Constitution of Bolivia guarantees the right to access information. The Maldives recommends the government to adopt a specific law guaranteeing such access and decriminalize defamation in accordance with international standards.

We wish Bolivia every success during this review.

Thank you, Mr. President