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

**Iraq**

**11 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 Iraq to this third cycle review of UPR. We also express our appreciation for the comprehensive presentation today.

The Maldives commends the government of Iraq for ratifying eight major international human rights instruments and for taking institutional and legislative measures at the national level for the promotion and protection of human rights of its people.

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

1. Prevent and eradicate harmful practices that discriminated against women and girls, including early, “temporary” and forced marriages, and female genital mutilation by raising public awareness about their negative effects
2. Investigate the cases of journalists who had been killed and continue to voluntarily report to UNESCO and all relevant international organisations

We wish Iraq every success at this review. Thank you, Mr. President.