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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE**

**AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GENEVA**

**35th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**20 -31 January 2020, Geneva**

**Review of Sweden**

**27 January 2020**

Statement by:

Ambassador Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam President,

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

In constructive spirit, the Maldives presents the following two recommendations to the Government of Sweden:

1. Expedite efforts to establish an independent institution for the protection of human rights.

2. Step up efforts to improve the health status of children from disadvantaged and marginalized groups and allocate sufficient resources to guarantee their right to health, without discrimination.

The Maldives welcomes the new strategy adopted by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency for development cooperation in the areas of human rights, democracy and the rule of law for the period 2018–2022.

We wish Sweden a successful review.

Thank you, Madam President.