**3rd Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review**

**36th Session of the UPR Working Group** - **Review of Maldives**

**Concluding Remarks by**

**His Excellency Dr. Asim Ahmed**

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office in Geneva**

4th November 2020

**Thank you, Madam President.**

As evident from our interventions, the Maldives’ governance framework is transforming positively, with the protection and promotion of human rights forming the cornerstone of our policies.

Today, we are proud to have demonstrated our commitment and progress, as we continue re-engaging with the international community.

**Madam President,**

During these two years of our Government, Maldives has ratified and acceded to many instruments, keeping true to our commitment to international human rights law. In addition to the conventions highlighted by the Attorney General in his Opening Statement, we have also signed and ratified the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in September 2019.

We recall the recommendations from the previous cycle, in relation to becoming party to certain conventions or treaties, and we take note of the similar recommendations we have received today. In acceding to Conventions, especially in the current climate, we are compelled to be mindful of the available resource envelope and our other domestic priorities.

We may be one of the smallest nations, but our commitment to the UPR process is unwavering. We have keenly listened to each and every one of your comments, concerns and recommendations. We hope that we have been able to address the advance questions and the questions raised during this session, through our thematic interventions.

The Maldivian delegation today has presented the progress our administration has achieved in the advancement of human rights, as well as the many challenges we face. With your guidance and support, we are confident that we can counter these challenges and emerge successful in our journey to mainstream human rights in all aspects of governance.

We are humbled by the kind acknowledgement of our progress, encouragement and the constructive discourse on moving forward. We take full note of your recommendations, comments and concerns. I reassure you that the Government of Maldives will give maximum consideration to your recommendations.

**Madam President,**

State reporting in the Maldives has so far remained an ad hoc process. As we embark on this next chapter of implementation and follow-up, I am pleased to announce that the Government is in the final stages of establishing a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up. This standing mechanism will seek to ensure coherence in formulation of National Reports, and timely and systematic follow up on the progress of implementation.

**Madam President,**

On behalf of the Government and the delegation of the Maldives, I wish to thank stakeholders for their committed engagement in this process and guidance with their valuable reports.

I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Human Rights Council and the UPR Secretariat, and the conference management services including the translators for all your assistance and efforts. A special thanks to you, Madam President, for chairing this session so very effectively this afternoon.

Finally, it is our hope that the international community will continue to be a constructive and a collaborative partner to the Maldives, as always, in overcoming the challenges to realise our objectives in all areas.

Thank you.