**36th session of the UPR Working group: Republic of Maldives**

**November 4th, 2020**

**Intervention by Romania**

Madam President,

Romania welcomes the delegation from the Republic of Maldives to the UPR and thanks them for the presentation of the national report.

We encourage the Government of Maldives to implement the commitments aimed at strengthening the rule of law, judicial reform, independent institutions, and promotion of gender equality, in line with the recommendations made under the previous cycle.

While appreciating the important steps taken to improve the human rights situation in the country, we note that, according to the reports, despite the ratification of progressive bills, the implementation of child protection legislation remains a challenge. In view of these circumstances, Romania would like to recommend the continuation of strengthening of the legal framework pertaining to the protection of children.

Furthermore, we recommend:

* to continue the necessary steps aimed at advancing towards the complete abolition of the death penalty;
* to strengthen the efforts made in view of combating the violence against women;
* to continue the measures aimed at accelerating the elimination of trafficking in persons, following the passing, in February 2020, of the National Anti-Trafficking Action Plan (2020-2022), as a revision of the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act.

We wish the delegation of the Republic of Maldives a successful UPR outcome.

Thank you.