**Statement by H.E. Pendapala A. Naanda, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, during the Interactive Dialogue on the Universal Periodic Review of the Maldives, 04 November 2020**

1. **Thank you, Madam. President,**
2. We warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of the Maldives and thank them for preparing a comprehensive national report as well as for their commitment to the UPR process.
3. We commend the Maldives for the positive human rights impact measures taken during the period under review notwithstanding her difficult past. We are particularly pleased to note of the measures taken to promote transparency and accountability and to combat corruption in the Maldives. We are also please to note that the death penalty has not been applied in the Maldives for over six and half decades.
4. In the spirit of constructive dialogue, Namibia, therefore, makes the following two recommendations for consideration by the Maldives:
	1. Ensure that sentences of persons who remain under sentence of death are commuted without delay.
	2. Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
5. We wish the delegation of the Maldives a successful review.
6. **I thank you, Madam. President.**