**Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the occasion of the Third Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of**

**The Maldives,**

**36th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**4 November 2020**

**Check Against Delivery**

Thank you Madam President.

Trinidad and Tobago joins previous speakers in congratulating The Maldives on the presentation of its third cycle report.

We acknowledge the progress made by The Maldives in the area of human rights, despite a number of challenges during the reporting period. Trinidad and Tobago encourages The Maldives to continue promoting the rule of law and democratic values and protecting human rights while further strengthening the governance system in the country. The Maldives’ reaffirmation of its previous standing invitation to all thematic special procedures is noted.

As a Small Island Developing State, The Maldives must be applauded for its commitment to boosting efforts to enhance climate resilience, and implement multi-sectoral and sustainable solutions to mitigate damage to its ecosystems.

In commending The Maldives for the progress achieved since its last Review, Trinidad and Tobago endorses sustained efforts at tackling Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), which are the main cause of morbidity and mortality in the country.

In conclusion, Trinidad and Tobago wishes The Maldives a successful Review.

Thank you.

Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago, Geneva

27 October 2020