**Statement by the State of Palestine at the Universal Periodic Review of Maldives, 4th of November 2020:**

Thank you, Madam President,

The State of Palestine welcomes the delegation of the Maldives to the third cycle of the UPR and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We commend the government’s commitment in implementing recommendations from the previous UPR cycle and the steps taken to promote and protect human rights in the country.

We also commend the government of Maldives for the steps taken in improving education, and **we recommend that the Maldives continue its efforts in ensuring children’s access to education including all children with disabilities.**

We welcome the efforts made by the government of the Maldives in improving knowledge and access to SRH services including through the renewal of the Health Master Plan that was finalized in 2017, and **we recommend that the Maldives continue its efforts in this regard with the focus on ensuring accessibility for all, including women and girls in particular rural women, to all health services.**

We wish the Maldives a successful review.

I thank you.