**Universal Periodic Review, 36th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of the Maldives, 4th November 2020**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mdm. President,

Denmark welcomes the delegation of the Maldives and thanks it for its presentation.

We commend the Maldives on withdrawing its reservations to (b), (e), (g), and (h) of Part 1 and Part 2 of Article 16 of CEDAW, which prohibits child, early and forced marriage and ensures women’s and girls’ right to freely choose the number and spacing of her children, as well as access to the information, education and means to exercise these rights.

*For this reason, Denmark recommends the Government to provide comprehensive sexuality education as part of the school curriculum.*

We remain deeply concerned that the Maldives are not upholding the right to freedom of religion or belief, both in law and in practice.

*Denmark recommends the Government to withdraw the reservation to Article 18 of the ICCPR.*

Denmark wishes the Maldives a successful review.

I thank you.