**36th Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Republic of Belarus**

**2 November 2020**

Statement by:

His Excellency Dr Asim Ahmed| Permanent Representative

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Madam President,

The Maldives extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Belarus to this third cycle of the UPR and takes note of the presentation today.

The Maldives welcomes the ratification of the International Covenant on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and would like to request to continue its efforts to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities including in the education sector. We also positively acknowledge the invitation extended to nine Special Procedure Mandate Holders and hope that a standing invitation will be extended to all special procedures and that the government would facilitate these visits.

In constructive spirit, the Maldives presents the following two recommendations to the Government of Belarus:

1. Continue to conduct education and awareness-raising programmes on the importance of family planning.
2. Develop and implement School based Mental Health Programmes aimed at youth on how to protect their own mental health and support those around them.

We wish Belarus every success at this review.

Thank you, Madam President.