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

**Universal Periodic Review of Maldives**

**Statement by**

**the Co-operative Republic of Guyana**

***Geneva, November 4, 2020***

Madam President,

Guyana welcomes the delegation of the Maldives and thanks them for the presentation of their National Report.

We congratulate the Government of the Maldives on progress achieved in improving the human rights situation in the country, particularly in relation to the promotion of gender equality and the equal participation of women in society. We applaud the enactment of the Gender Equality Act which, for the first time, provides the legal framework needed to address gender-based discrimination and gender-based violence.

We recommend that Maldives further pursue its efforts to promote the empowerment of women and girls by incorporating all provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women into the national legal system in order to make them directly applicable and enforceable by the courts.

I Thank You.