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Ambassador-designate

## UPR Working Group 6<sup>th</sup> Session: Dominican Republic

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to welcome the distinguished delegation from the Dominican Republic, a fellow member of the Alliance of Small Island States, to this 6<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR working group.

Mr. President,

The Maldives congratulates the Dominican Republic on the comprehensive nature of its report, and for its commitment to human rights – a fact evidenced by its ratification of most core human rights conventions.

The Maldives notes that in its national report, the Dominican Republic concedes that gender-based violence is a problem in the country and often goes unreported.

In this regard, the Maldives would like to ask the following question:

Has the Dominican Republic given consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to visit the country and to advise on steps that might be taken to eliminate violence against women?

Thank you.