**Right to Development**

**24th Session of the Working Group – Closing Remarks**

Statement by:

Shifaya Ibrahim - Counsellor

*Checked against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. Chair Rapporteur.

On behalf of the Maldives, I express our deepest gratitude to the Chair Rapporteur, Ambassador Zamir Akram for your leadership and the exceptional manner in which you chaired this meeting. I also offer our appreciation to the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development Mr. Surya Deva and Mr. Mihir Kanade, for their efforts in their contributions in taking these discussions forward.

This year, as we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights along with the 30th Anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, we reaffirm our commitment to universal human rights values based on universality, interdependency, indivisibility, and inter-relatedness. The Maldives strongly believes that upholding these values is critical for the full realization and enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development.

Mr. Chair,

The right to development is an indispensable human right, and a necessary means of achieving a more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable future for all. For us in the Maldives, this right is especially vital. As a Small Island Developing State, we face serious challenges posed by climate change and have limited resources that hinder our developmental efforts to achieve sustainable development goals. Promoting environmentally sound sustainable practices and addressing the special needs of small island states are crucial to ensure the realization of the right to development.

Thank you.