Mr/Ms President, distinguished Members of the Board,


In 2011, the Maldives graduated from the United Nations List of Least Developed Countries, a clear manifestation of the remarkable social and economic progress it has achieved in the fifty years it has been an independent country. However, the challenges associated with high cost of service delivery uniformly across a small, yet highly dispersed population remains a challenge. So are emerging issues such as the increasing youth population, rising incidences of gang violence, drug abuse, violence against children and ensuring the protection of vulnerable groups.

The Government decided to focus on children and youth, as one of the four outcomes of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, based on these challenges and the comparative advantage that the UN System in the Maldives has in this area. The UN System in the Maldives has a proven track record of delivering effectively in the area of children and youth, and the Government is keen to make use of its experience and expertise.

This UNDAF is a highly focused one; as results of the evaluation of the current UNDAF clearly showed that resources spread across too many focus areas, reduced effectiveness. In approaching the formulation of UNDAF and the Country Programme Documents, there was also a concerted effort to align with the Sustainable Development Goals, the lessons from the Millennium Development Goals, and the priorities of the SAMOA Pathway.

Mr President,

The Government of Maldives commends this Country Programme Document for adoption by the Executive Board. We remain committed to maintaining the close spirit of cooperation that has prevailed throughout the CPD formulation process, and maintain the unprecedented level of national ownership that the UNDAF and the CPD Documents enjoy. Thank you.