

**Statement by**  
**Uza. Aminath Shifaya Ibrahim**  
**Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the UN and other**  
**International Organisations at Geneva**  
**Annual Discussion on Integration of a gender perspective**  
**Theme: Revisiting gender parity and its contributions to the integration of**  
**gender into the work of international human rights bodies, including the**  
**Human Rights Council and its mechanisms**  
**54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**25 September 2023**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives is pleased to participate in this Annual Discussion and thanks the distinguished panellists for their insightful remarks.

Mr. President,

Integrating gender perspectives at the global level goes hand-in-hand with empowerment of women at the national level.

At the national level, we are making significant efforts to empower women. The Maldives launched the Women in Sustainable Entrepreneurship (WISE) programme in 2022. This programme provided women with financial assistance, self-employment, and the opportunity to apply for grant programmes, which provide 40% of its funds to self-employed women. In 2019, two female judges were appointed to our Supreme Court for the first time, marking a historic milestone. The same year, the Parliament approved the allocation of one-third of council seats to women. We have also launched the National Gender Equality Action Plan for 2022-2026, outlining our key

strategies to increase women's equal participation in all state and national-level engagements.

We are also proud to note that one of our female Supreme Court justices currently serves as a member of the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture and the SPT Vice Chairperson for National Preventive Mechanisms. In our pursuit to further promote women's empowerment at the international level, we have nominated a female candidate to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, for the term 2025-2029, who we hope you can all support.

We also believe celebrating the role women have played in international diplomacy, including in human rights bodies is important. This is why we led efforts to declare 24 June as International Day of Women in Diplomacy. Recognising the work women have done, and acknowledging the challenges women continue to face, is we believe, instrumental to enhancing their participation in international diplomacy.

I thank you.