



PERMANENT MISSION OF MALDIVES
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Statement to be delivered by H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives on the interactive dialogue with the SR on implications of Human rights of environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and waste

Thank you madam President

The Maldives delegation would like to thank the SR on implications of human rights of environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and waste and her thorough report focusing on the impact on human rights of nuclear testing program conducted in MI during the period 1946-1958.

The Maldives as a member of AOSIS, like the Marshall Islands is vulnerable to negative impacts from environmental degradation. Hence the Maldives examines the report from a standpoint of negative implications to enjoyment of fundamental human rights ie, the right to health, safer environment and livelihood from hazardous substances and toxic waste,

We take note of this first report examining the seriousness of the impact of adverse effects of nuclear testing in Marshall Islands and the suffering of its people that can have lasting effects like cancer and birth defects. As the report focus on the adverse effects of nuclear testing on the Marshall Islands, such damaging effects of nuclear testing needs to be looked at with concern in terms of right to health of the entire population of the MI people, the reality of many Marshellese people are suffering till now) society as a whole (this is with regard to displacement of families due to nuclear contamination in islands).

As many small islands states like the Marshall Islands already are struggling with multifaceted challenges and do not have the capacity to deal with such adverse impacts on environment, support of the international community is very much needed. In this regard we note that SR has commended the efforts of US to provide technical and other programs to the affected people of Marshall Islands.

I thank you
