



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**Statement to be delivered by H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam,
Ambassador/Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United
Nations Office in Geneva on Agenda Item 3:**

Panel on Business and Human Rights

At the 23rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

30 May 2013 15:00 – 18:00

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives delegation would like to thank the High Commissioner, the moderator and the panellists for their presentations and the interesting dialogue today.

Mr. President,

United Nations system's role is indispensable in advancing the business and human rights agenda, through embedding Guiding Principles into the global development agenda. As the Heads of States and representatives from all nations will gather in New York later this year to finalize the post-2015 development agenda which will replace the MDGs, we find this panel discussion as timely and very appropriate.

The Maldives would like to examine business and human rights, particularly from the perspective of corporate responsibility on human rights and environmental challenges. The adverse impacts on the environment caused by business enterprises at times infringes on the human rights. We have been exploring ways to incorporate the principle into our national legislations, which would facilitate a just co-existence between these two forces in a modern society: business enterprises and respect for human rights.

We are also pleased that the High-Level Panel to advise the Secretary-General on the post-2015 development agenda includes areas such as protection of environment and sustainable production. We hope the High-Level Panel's final report will examine the linkages of business and human rights in the context of post-2015 development agenda, specially focusing on the protection of environment and sustainable development through public and private partnerships.

Mr. President,

As noted by Professor John Ruggie, the former Special Representative, mainstreaming of the Guiding Principles not only lies in legally-binding requirements but also soft law that regulate corporate conduct. However, another significant challenge for most member states is the implementation of existing laws that regulate corporations to respect human rights. The roles and responsibilities of the state, civil society and business enterprises in promoting respect for human rights need to be identified and integrated into national plans. However to implement those national laws and national plans, we also believe that UN system should concentrate on technical assistance and capacity building, which will assist countries in mainstreaming Guiding Principles into their own development agendas.

Finally, we wish to note that all stakeholders, including civil society, business and industry bodies have contributed tremendously to this initiative. Since the Council unanimously endorsed the Guiding Principles in 2011 we have witnessed noteworthy developments, as these principles have been adopted as business standards and sustainable policies by international, national bodies, civil society organizations and businesses enterprises themselves.

To conclude, I would like to encourage all states and non-state actors to continue engaging in dialogue on this to address the complex global challenges of business and human rights through the lens of post-2015 development agenda.

I thank you.
