



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

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Geneva, 9 – 27 September 2013

**Agenda Item 10: General Debate – Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building
25 September 2013**

**Statement by HE Ms. Iruthisham Adam,
Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Mr. President.

The Maldives would like to express our appreciation to the High Commissioner for her reports. We also commend her continued efforts to provide technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights.

The Maldives draws Council's attention to the particular need of such assistance to those countries undergoing democratic transitions. We also believe that such technical assistance is necessary to strengthen all democratic institutions and actors such as Executive, Legislature and Judiciary as well as civil society and media.

Mr. President,

On several occasions Maldives raised the issue of challenges to LDCs and SIDS facing in upholding their human rights obligations and commitments. Hence, we are pleased to note that Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the Work of the Human Rights Council, established in March 2012 during the 19th Session of the Council is finally in operation. We also thank the governments of Australia and Germany for contributing to the fund. We hope that this Trust Fund will provide a much-needed opportunity for LDCs and SIDS which are constrained by human and financial resources or who do not have a presence in Geneva to participate and contribute to the negotiations.

One good example of technical cooperation is “Inter-regional Seminar to Facilitate the Participation of LDCs and SIDs in the Human Rights Council and its UPR” held in Mauritius in July 2013, organized by the Government of Mauritius and the Office of the High Commissioner. While the opportunity was invaluable for the participants, Council and the Office needs to organize such events in future, with lessons learned from Mauritius seminar.

Mr. President,

Finally, we believe that creation of Voluntary Trust Funds is a cost-effective way of providing technical assistance and had contributed to the improvement of human rights. However, it is also important to make them more effective. In this regard we call upon the Office of the High Commissioner to make the Voluntary Trust Fund on participation of UPR and Trust Fund on the implementation of UPR to be more easily accessible as well as to improve its public outreach. As countries with smaller delegations and those who are not present in Geneva are mostly unaware of these funds, or if they do, find it difficult to access these funds. These countries are also the world’s poorest and most vulnerable, who need the assistance most.

I thank you.