



Statement by

His Excellency Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed

**Permanent Representative,
Republic of Maldives**

at the

Ninth Session

of the

**Human Rights Council of the
United Nations**

Under Agenda Item 3

10th September 2008



Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives once again welcomes the holding of the Special Session on the global food crisis. The Maldives as a small island nation lacks cultivable land, has poor soil conditions and shortage of fresh water for irrigation, which makes agricultural development relatively limited in the Maldives.

The Maldives, therefore, has to rely heavily on food imports, and is especially vulnerable to the shortages of food supplies and the related rise in world food prices. The rise in food prices impacts mostly on the world's poor, plunging them to extreme poverty. The high food prices hinders the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially MDG one, on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Similarly, the high food prices, the energy crisis and devastating effects of climate change can impact negatively on the Maldives in achieving ~~its~~ our nutrition targets.

Mr. President,

We recognise that important discussions have taken place at the High-Level Conference on World Food Security held in Rome in June this year, especially on Climate Change and Food Security, and the causes, consequences and possible solutions of the High Food Prices. The Maldives appreciates that the Declaration of the High Level Conference takes note of the sustainable development of small island developing states in the context of the challenges of climate change and food security, as we believe that Climate Change should be central to the discussions on food security.



In this regard, we would like the Council to consider our proposal for the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate food to attend the meeting of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Copenhagen in 2009 to ensure the inclusion of a right to food dimension in that discussion.

Thank you Mr. President.

