

Third Session of the UPR Working Group

Tuvalu

Thank you Mr. President.

The Maldives delegation would like to warmly welcome our friends from Tuvalu to this Third Session of the UPR Working Group. It is a particular pleasure for the Maldives to see Tuvalu, a fellow Member of the Alliance of Small Island States and the Commonwealth, here with us today. We congratulate them on their excellent National Report, which was based on wide and open consultation process.

As Tuvalu notes in its National Report, the greatest threat facing the country, its people and their human rights is climate change and sea-level rise. Global warming immediately and directly undermines a wide-range of fundamental rights in Tuvalu including the rights to food, to water, to adequate housing, to development, to health and even to life.

The Maldives would like to congratulate Tuvalu for its tireless international efforts to protect the rights of its People by campaigning against human-induced climate change. However, the Maldives also clearly recognizes that Tuvalu on its own is incapable of fully protecting the wide range of rights and freedoms directly implicated by climate change; even though those rights are guaranteed under national and international law. This is because of the ultimate cause of climate change originates far beyond the borders of the country and far beyond its effective control.

Thus, the international community, in particular the major emitting countries of the developed world, must themselves also take responsibility for promoting and protecting the human rights of Tuvaluans by arresting their dangerous interference with the global climate system.

With these points in mind, the Maldives would like to make two recommendations:

1. That Tuvalu continues to engage with the international community, particularly the major emitting countries of the developed world, many of whom are Members of the Human Rights Council; and to work with those countries in order to protect the human rights of Tuvaluans by securing significant global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;
2. That Tuvalu participates in discussions in the Human Rights Council, scheduled for March, on the relationship between human rights and climate change, in order to send a strong message to the Parties to the UNFCCC on the importance of reaching an effective and workable global agreement on climate change mitigation and adaptation.