



Thank you Madame Chair,

The Maldives delegation would like to congratulate the speakers for their thought-provoking presentations.

There is now no doubt, legal or otherwise, that climate change has wide-ranging and deep negative implications for the full enjoyment of human rights, especially amongst vulnerable population groups. ~~A recent report by the Global Humanitarian Forum estimates that by the year 2030 climate change will push an extra 20 million people into poverty, will cause an extra 37 million people to be malnourished, and will cause over 75 million people to be permanently displaced, often across borders. By 2099 whole countries, including the Maldives will disappear beneath the sea.~~

~~Madame Chair,~~

The challenge for this Council and the international human rights community is how to respond to this unfolding human rights tragedy. What role can we play to protect and promote the fundamental rights of those vulnerable people whose lives will increasingly be ruined by a problem that they cannot control and for which they bear almost no responsibility.

The Maldives believes that the Council must respond in three ways.

First, the Council must send a strong political message to negotiators in the ongoing UNFCCC talks, that climate change is already undermining the human rights of millions of people around the world, and that these impacts will grow steadily worse unless they reach an ambitious agreement in Copenhagen that avoids temperature rises of more than 2 degrees Celsius. ~~State Party negotiators must understand that their actions over the next six months will not only result in a new scientific Treaty, but will have a direct and immediate impact on the internationally-protected human rights of millions of people around the world.~~

~~Second, the Council and international human rights mechanisms must take a more serious and concerted approach to emphasize responsibility and accountability in the context of human rights undermined by climate change.~~

*Second,*

OHCHR's Report clarifies that States Parties to core human rights treaties have an extraterritorial legal obligation to refrain from taking action which interferes with the enjoyment of human rights in other countries, and to take steps through international cooperation to facilitate the fulfillment of those rights. The Maldives calls on Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures in particular to begin enforcing these obligations during their interactions with large emitting States, especially those from the developed world which bear a historic responsibility for climate change.

Third, in the longer-term the Council should consider whether climate change highlights the current limitations of the international human rights system in the context of a globalised, environmentally-interdependent world, and how these inadequacies should be addressed.

With these three points in mind, the Maldives would like to ask the panel:

1. How can existing human rights mechanisms better enforce the State obligation not to interfere with the enjoyment of human rights in other countries and to cooperate internationally to address human rights concerns?
2. Should the Council consider new mechanisms, such as a new Special Procedure mandate, or new instruments, such a new convention on extraterritorial environmental rights, as a way of strengthening accountability?
3. Do we need a new international treaty to protect the rights of climate-displaced persons; and who should be responsible for protecting the rights of people who are left stateless?

Thank you.