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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GENEVA

**Thirty-Ninth Session of the Human Rights Council  
Agenda Item 3**

Clustered Interactive Dialogue on Right to Development & Unilateral Coercive Measures  
**13 September 2018**  
**Time limit: 2 minutes**

Statement by:

Ms Aishth Shahula,

First Secretary | Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

My delegation thanks the Special Rapporteur on the right to development Mr Saad Alfarargi, for the important work carried out under his mandate, and thanks him for the comprehensive report presented under this Agenda item. We further welcome the focus of his report on the consequences of inequalities within countries, on the enjoyment of the right to development.

We concur with the Special Rapporteur on the importance of adopting national and international policies to empower the bottom percentile of income earners, regardless of their gender, race, age or economic background.

We would also like to acknowledge, and express our gratitude to the Special Rapporteur for recognizing in his report, the extensive efforts undertaken by the Maldives this year on gender mainstreaming, and to include a gender perspective within the policy making process. The Government attaches great importance on gender-responsive planning and implementation, especially in key policy areas, and continue to promote gender mainstreaming in all government institutions.

Mr. President,

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), the Maldives is highly dependent on the support of the international community on our development efforts. Given our small size, narrow natural resources and dispersed populations, collaboration and cooperation with key stakeholders remains an important pillar for the Maldives' developmental efforts, which unfortunately, continue to be hampered by the impending threats of climate change and sea level rise.

As enshrined in our Constitution, and the Government of Maldives is committed to ensure that all Maldivians are afforded the highest attainable standards of living, health, education and well being. Therefore, the Maldives considers mainstreaming elements of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in its plans, policies and strategies an important priority. At the national level, a multi-agency approach to implementation of the SDGs has been ongoing for the past two years.

In conclusion, my delegation takes positive note of the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur in the context of the implementation of the equality related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Identifying the root causes of inequality, ensuring a participatory process through inclusivity and non-discrimination and strengthening accountability mechanisms are within our national agenda for sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. President.