

**Statement by**

**His Excellency Dr. Asim Ahmed**

**Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva**

**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Torture**

**49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment for his comprehensive report. Last March, the Special Rapporteur presented a report following his visit to the Maldives, with many valuable recommendations. Therefore, I would like to highlight some of the measures taken by the Maldives, based on these recommendations.

In order to reduce overcrowding and to improve detention conditions, two prisons are being developed with greater institutional capacities and improved standards for ventilation, congestion, and space for exercise. A Drug Rehabilitation Centre is also being developed within the existing *Maafushi* Prison to ensure that those with a history of substance abuse are given the support and treatment that they need. Furthermore, to improve our national legal infrastructure, a new prison and parole act is being drafted and is scheduled to be submitted to the parliament in the coming months. We are immensely grateful for the support of our international partners as we continue to implement criminal justice reform.

Mr. President,

The Government of Maldives remains committed to strengthening and upholding protections against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. We are resolute in our protection of the fundamental rights enshrined in our constitution and the UN Charter.

I thank you.