

Statement by

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Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for her comprehensive report.

Mr. President,

The Maldives has taken several steps to counter terrorism, radicalism, and violent extremism at the national level. As such, to execute operations in accordance with the National Terrorism Response Plan, the Government has recently opened a Joint Interagency Operations Centre. The Centre serves as the operational hub linking all national institutions to coordinate response efforts related to terrorist attacks.

Furthermore, in November 2021, President Solih ratified the Third Amendment to the Anti-Terrorism Act. The Bill amends the sections relating to arrest without a warrant, search and seizure of private premises and remand of accused persons. It also outlines procedures and rules for returning fighters, and institutes special

measures to help safeguard the welfare of the children of returning fighters. All in all, these efforts are a clear testament to the Government's commitment to implementing its "zero-tolerance" policy on radicalism, terrorism and violent extremism.

Mr. President,

In 2006, Maldives extended a standing invitation to all thematic Special Procedure Mandate Holders. In this regard, we are pleased to inform that work is underway to welcome the Special Rapporteur's visit to the Maldives in May this year. Before I conclude, let me take this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to working closely with the Special Rapporteur to counter terrorism and to uphold our obligations under international human rights law.

I thank you.