

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 10: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes Cambodia's constructive engagement with the United Nations, OHCHR, human rights mechanisms, and international partners over the years, including the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Cambodia in October last year. We are also pleased to acknowledge that Cambodia is now a party to eight out of the nine core human rights treaties.

Mr. President,

We believe that technical assistance and capacity building programmes, in consultation with the Government of Cambodia, can further improve the human rights situation in the country. We urge the Cambodian Authorities to work with the UN Human Rights Office in Cambodia to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations and individuals to exercise their fundamental freedom of expression, association, and assembly in order to effectively promote the protection of human rights in the country.

To conclude, Maldives encourages the Government of Cambodia, the Special Rapporteur and the OHCHR to enhance cooperation to protect the fundamental freedoms in the country.

I thank you.