

Statement by

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**Item 2: Meeting on Technical Cooperation in Protecting Human Rights of
Vulnerable Persons in and after COVID-19 Pandemic**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to thank the Council for convening this important meeting on enhancing technical cooperation to protect persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations, as part of COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts. The Maldives echoes the concerns raised by Resolution 46/13 on the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic perpetuates and exacerbates existing inequalities.

Mr. President,

The Maldives has taken several steps to combat the effects of the pandemic on vulnerable and marginalized persons. This includes, mandating employers to provide special paid leaves to staff who test positive for COVID-19 or is a suspected case. The social sector institutions have also strengthened their capacities and increased technical cooperation to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on women and children, migrant workers, senior citizens and homeless persons. In this regard, temporary government shelters were created during the lockdown for victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. More than 500 migrant workers from

confined living spaces were transferred to more suitable accommodation facilities and provided with all basic needs. Older persons with high-risk chronic conditions were enabled to renew prescriptions online and have medicines delivered to them. Furthermore, all homeless persons in Male' who could not access food or housing during the lockdown were provided temporary shelter, along with all essential services.

Before concluding, let me renew our commitment to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, including migrant workers, from the effects of the pandemic, to ensure that no one is left behind.

I thank you.