

**Statement by**

**His Excellency Dr. Asim Ahmed**

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

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

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Thank you, Mr. President,

This is the first time Maldives is taking the floor under this agenda item, after the Council recognized the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Council and thank the Special Rapporteur for his invaluable contributions towards achieving this milestone.

Mr. President,

The science is very clear; the world's climate system is going through exponential changes that are already causing irreversible damages. Despite Maldives contributing just 0.003% of global greenhouse gas emissions, we are determined to show leadership on climate action. The ratification of the Emergency Climate Act, which aims to reduce all carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, is a clear testament to our commitment to effectively address climate change. In addition, the Government has prohibited the importing, manufacturing, and marketing of single-use plastics within the country. We are also proud to note that Maldives is the first

developing country to phase out HCFCs, a milestone we have achieved 10 years ahead of the Montreal Protocol target.

Mr. President,

We are deeply concerned that the Special Rapporteur's report revealed that the current approaches to managing the risks posed by pollution and toxic substances are failing, resulting in widespread violations of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Therefore, we would like to hear the views of the Special Rapporteur on the steps that can be taken to address these gaps in current practices.

I thank you.