

Statement by
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Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations and
other International Organizations at Geneva
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on International
Order
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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives thanks the Independent Expert for his comprehensive report on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order and appreciate the focus on international peace and security.

Mr. President,

The very first foreign policy decision that the Maldives took after gaining independence in 1965 was to join the United Nations. As a small state, the Maldives looks to the rules based international order to ensure our viability as a nation. Maldives is a strong supporter of multilateralism and the multilateral frameworks that address international peace and security challenges. Shared global problems, such as climate change, terrorism and pandemics, require global solutions. We therefore welcome the recommendations by the Independent Expert that highlight the urgent need to strengthen multilateral engagement through constructive dialogue and diplomatic negotiations. It is the only path for solving conflicts and overcoming the current global challenges.

Mr. President,

Security and strength can only come from investing in the well-being of our people and by protecting our environment on which we rely for our livelihoods, and not by increasing military spending. To promote international peace and security, we need to redouble our efforts to promote disarmament. The Maldives is a signatory to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Arms Trade Treaty.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we would like to note that for countries such as the Maldives, climate change poses a threat to our national security; a threat we cannot overcome on our own. The number of islands that need coastal protection continues to increase, while severe climate events are on the rise. For us, climate change is a risk multiplier that is a threat to international security, which can be overcome only through concerted global action.

I thank you.