

Statement by
His Excellency Dr Asim Ahmed
Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United
Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva
Panel discussion on the future of the right to work in connection with climate
change actions, responses and impacts in the context of
sustainable and inclusive economies
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Thank you, Mr. President.

The Maldives thanks the panellists for their participation and valuable contribution today.

Mr. President,

Small Island Developing States are heavily reliant on their natural environment for achieving economic prosperity. With the continuous challenges faced by SIDS due to climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the vulnerabilities of SIDS. Several industries that SIDS depend on for income and livelihoods were directly affected by the pandemic, resulting in a substantial loss of income and jobs. Therefore, it is important to use the post pandemic phase to enable sustainable economic opportunities, including green jobs that can foster diversification and resilience of SIDS.

Investing in renewable energy and increasing the share of renewables in the energy sector are key priorities of the government. We believe that this transformation will

not only enable us to move away from fossil fuels to achieve our Net-Zero emissions target by 2030, but will also increase institutional capacity, green technology and decent jobs that preserve and restore the environment. To successfully achieve this transformation and create sustainable and inclusive growth, it is important that we receive the support and assistance of the international community.

Mr. President,

The government's Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023 outlines measures to increase the employability and labour force participation of youth, women and persons with disabilities. In addition, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology launched a Gender Action Plan this year, which aims to recognize the underlying gender dynamics in the local energy sector and identify targeted interventions to improve the participation and representation of women in planning, decision making and implementation of climate actions, in order for women to benefit equally from related employment and training opportunities. Therefore, we would like to stress the importance of a gender perspective in today's discussion and would like to ask the panel, what are the steps that could be taken to further promote gender equity in the workplace while protecting the environment.

I thank you.