

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 Special Rapporteur on Water and
Sanitation
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Thank you, Mr President.

The Maldives thanks the Special Rapporteur for your commitment to the mandate and for the comprehensive report.

Mr. President,

The Government of the Maldives is committed to ensuring access to water and sanitation for all. In this regard, our Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023 outlines the necessary steps to build the sector's capacity and adopt cost-effective and environment-friendly water and sewerage services. Our aim is to provide access to safe water supplies and sewerage facilities to all inhabited islands by 2023. These facilities will utilise 30 percent of their required energy from renewable sources. In addition, we are working towards strengthening the operation, maintenance and management of water supplies and sewerage systems through compliance, monitoring and safety planning.

On this note, let me also highlight that providing these services adequately to a population scattered across small and remote islands is extremely costly and challenging. Our efforts are greatly impacted by the effects of climate change

and sea level rise. Research has shown that climate change induced sea level rise is expected to decrease the yield of safe groundwater by at least 3 percent, between 2012 and 2030.

Mr. President,

Before concluding, let me note that technical and financial assistance, as well as capacity building for vulnerable communities such as Small Island Developing States, are of utmost importance to minimize loss and damage, and to ensure that the hard earned development gains are not lost.

Thank you.