

**Statement by**  
**Ms. Hawla Ahmed Didi**  
**Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the**  
**United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva**  
**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Older Persons**  
**51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives thanks the Independent Expert for the comprehensive report and for the oral update today.

Mr. President,

The Government of Maldives is committed to promoting and protecting the rights of older persons. In this regard, the Government has drafted a bill on older persons, with the aim of ensuring that their rights are protected, socially and economically. The bill also focuses on addressing negligence and abuse faced by older persons.

In order to guarantee a life of dignity for our ageing population, the Government has endorsed the Maldives National Plan of Action on Older Persons. The plan outlines ways to improve the healthcare and wellbeing of the older persons and encourage their participation in the community. Furthermore, the Government is working with UNICEF to establish Community Social Groups in the islands to identify senior citizens who are most vulnerable and those that are not officially registered but still require additional support. The groups will be comprised of

representatives from island councils, health and education sectors, law enforcement agencies and NGOs active at island level.

Mr. President,

We appreciate the contribution made by older persons to their societies and would like to ask the Special Rapporteur, what more can be done by states to protect the rights of older persons.

I thank you.