

Statement by
His Excellency Dr Asim Ahmed
Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the
United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva
Item 2: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Human Rights Situation of
Women and Girls in Afghanistan
53rd Session of the Human Rights Council
19 June 2023

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to thank the speakers for briefing the council on the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

The Maldives remains deeply concerned about the rapidly deteriorating situation of human rights in Afghanistan. We firmly believe that Afghani women and girls must have equal rights in society as men and be allowed to pursue their aspirations with dignity, without any form of discrimination.

Mr. President,

The Maldives expresses grave concern over the ban on women working at the UN and NGOs in Afghanistan. These restrictions adversely affect the UN humanitarian operations and compromise the physical and mental well-being of women and girls, preventing them from realizing their full potential.

Mr. President,

The Maldives warmly welcomes the UN Security Council resolution 2681 which reiterates the importance of safeguarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of Afghani women and girls. Afghanistan must prioritise the protection and promotion of the fundamental rights of women and girls. Meaningful participation of Afghani women and girls in all spheres of life is vital to achieving political stability and social and economic prosperity in the country.

Mr. President,

Maldives stands in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, who deserve peace, security, and prosperity after years of conflict and turmoil.

Thank you.