

**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: Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's Annual Report**  
**53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**20 June 2023**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Maldives thanks the High Commissioner for his annual report and commend the work undertaken to promote and protect human rights.

As a member of the Council, Maldives is committed towards ensuring that the work of the council is conducted in a credible, balanced, efficient, and effective manner. Our work will be guided by the principles of human rights, democracy and good governance and climate action. These are the pillars of our development strategy and foreign policy.

Mr. President,

Under President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's leadership, the Maldives has made significant progress in upholding and protecting human rights and in particular, to promote democracy and to uphold the rule of law. As such the Government of Maldives has put forward an amendment to the Judicature Act proposing to enable the establishment of district and circuit courts to ensure wider access to justice at the regional and island level

Before concluding, let me also note that China has been an important development partner and our relationship is based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. We, therefore, reiterate our firm commitment to the long-standing One-China policy. We are confident that, under the principle of One Country, Two Systems, the Chinese people will continue to prosper and enjoy economic benefits and universally accepted fundamental freedoms.

I thank you.