

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 3: Interactive Dialogue on Secretary General's Report on Climate
Change
53rd Session of the Human Rights Council
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Thank you, Mr. President,

Maldives extends its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on the adverse impacts of climate change on the full realization of the right to food.

Mr. President,

For Small Island Developing States such as the Maldives, the issue of climate change is central to the discussion on food security. In the Maldives, we face dire consequences due to sea level rise, ground water pollution due to salt intrusion into the ground water lens, changing rainfall patterns resulting in smaller agricultural yields in our limited arable land. The fishery industry, which is the largest source of employment in local communities, is facing difficulties as a result of coral bleaching brought on by increasing surface temperature of our seas. Vulnerable populations in the islands including women and girls are disproportionately affected by the cascading impact of climate change on food security.

Mr. President,

The Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023 integrates the promotion of climate resilient fisheries and agricultural practices to improve food security. The government is actively promoting and strengthening small and medium enterprises related to agriculture and fisheries sector by providing financial support. Amendments have been made to the General Fisheries Regulation to promote community engagement. We are also working on enhancing the coping capacity of fisher communities in the face of external shocks.

The support of the international community is essential to effectively address the adverse impacts of climate change on the full realization of the right to food.

Thank you.