

**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 9: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's Report on**  
**Technical Co-operation and Capacity Building**  
**53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**11 July 2023**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to thank the High Commissioner for the presentation of the comprehensive report on Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building. We concur with the High Commissioner's report on adopting a human-rights based approach in achieving sustainable development to better understand the persistent inequalities that affect development.

We have witnessed how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated economic inequality, debt distress, and the high cost of living which has disproportionately affected the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries. Being a Small Island Developing State, the Maldives expresses the need to increase cooperation and partnerships in response to global developmental challenges.

Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the opportunities and assistance provided by OHCHR to strengthen the human right mechanism of States at national level. In particular, we note the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund which has been an instrumental tool in building the capacity of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all donor countries for their valuable contribution to the Trust Fund to enhance inclusivity of LDCs and SIDS in the works of the Human Rights Council.

The Maldives stands ready to work with OHCHR to promote and protect human rights at all fronts, in line with the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I thank you.