

Statement by

His Excellency Dr Asim Ahmed

**Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the
United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives extends its appreciation to the High Commissioner for his oral update and welcomes the work undertaken by the High Commissioner to promote and protect human rights globally.

Mr. President,

The Maldives has taken significant steps this year to further strengthen human rights, democracy and the rule of law at the national level. As such, the Government has increased the baseline disability allowance to persons with disabilities by 50 per cent and introduced new benefits that consider the situational severity and the types of assistive care required by persons with disabilities. In order to provide a formal mechanism for students to seek mental health and psychosocial support, the Ministry of Education, with support from the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has established a Psychological First Aid Helpline for students. This helpline is a confidential service for students and is staffed by trained counsellors who can provide the necessary support and guidance as required.

This July, the Maldives ratified the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, reinforcing the Government's resolve to uphold human rights in the domestic and international spheres. The Government remains committed to implementing all requisite steps to meet its obligations under the Convention.

Mr. President,

Before concluding, I wish to note that China has been an important development partner and our relationship is based on mutual respect of each other's 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.