

**Statement by**

**Uza. Aminath Shifaya Ibrahim**

**Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations and  
other International Organisations at Geneva**

**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Older Persons**

**54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**19 September 2023**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Maldives thanks the Special Rapporteur for his comprehensive and insightful report. We take note of the importance of adopting a human rights-based approach in the integration of decarbonization and detoxification within climate change solutions.

Mr. President,

Climate Change is an everyday lived reality for the Maldives and other small island developing states. It transcends national borders, and it cannot be reduced to simply as an environmental issue. However, as indicated in the Special Rapporteur's report, the climate emergency does not justify acts that place harmful burdens on people and the environment that infringe on human rights. We must manage environmental risks while also taking into consideration, the social and economic consequences of such actions.

Globally, managing hazardous chemicals is essential for safeguarding fundamental human rights including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

In this regard, the Government of Maldives has taken concrete measures to manage waste. Last November, the Maldives enacted the Waste Management Act which governs the implementation and enforcement of sustainable waste management practices and promotes Waste-to-Energy, which also reduces emissions. Last year, a baseline assessment was conducted on the national use of chemicals and associated risks, in order to better understand the challenges to effective chemical management at the national level. We are also enacting a national plan to phase out single-use plastics, and have banned the use of 8 single-use plastic items in the country.

Before concluding, we would like to ask the Special Rapporteur to elaborate on effective approaches that states with limited resources, such as the Maldives, can adopt to accelerate decarbonization and detoxification efforts.

I thank you.