

**Statement by**

**Ms. Maryam Fathika Fayaz**

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

**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on International Order**

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

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives thanks the Independent Expert for his comprehensive report, and appreciates the focus on challenges and opportunities for youth representation and participation in international governing bodies.

The representation and participation of youth in international governing bodies present remarkable opportunities. It is crucial to acknowledge the pivotal role young people play in shaping our global future. Empowering youth in decision-making can drive innovative solutions to pressing global issues like climate change, inequality, and social justice.

Mr. President,

The Maldives has always provided our youth with the necessary training, education, and resources to empower them as responsible citizens. The Government of Maldives, in partnership with the World Bank, currently runs a project entitled “the Maldives: Enhancing Employability and Resilience of Youth Project” to diversify the economy, enhance youth employability, and promote entrepreneurship in key sectors of the economy. Furthermore, the third cycle of the Practice Parliament initiative by UNDP Maldives in partnership with People’s

Majlis of the Maldives was conducted in February 2023. This initiative aims to empower women and youth to actively engage in democratic processes.

In conclusion, we would like to ask the Independent Expert to share some best practices and strategies that small island states, such as the Maldives, can employ to enhance the representation and meaningful participation of youth in international governing bodies.

Thank you.