

**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 with the Working Group on Enforced**  
**Disappearances**  
**54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**19 September 2023**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives expresses its gratitude to the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances for presenting its comprehensive report.

Mr. President,

The commitment of the Maldives to uphold human rights remains a cornerstone of our foreign policy. As of today, the Government of Maldives has ratified eight core international human rights treaties, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which we ratified on 31 July 2023. This marks a significant milestone in our democratic journey and demonstrates the Government's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Mr. President,

The Government firmly believes that development without justice will be futile. Multiple avenues have been established aimed at addressing and redressing past human rights abuses and promoting accountability through a transparent process. As such, the Presidential Commission on Investigation of Murders and Enforced

Disappearances was established in 2018, which was afforded statutory powers through the Presidential Commissions' Act. This Commission has achieved significant results in resolving major cases of missing persons.

Furthermore, a Transitional Justice Act was enacted in 2020, which established the Ombudsperson's Office for Transitional Justice, mandated with investigating past systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms perpetrated by State institutions or its senior officials.

Mr. President,

In the spirit of cooperation, we have been working closely with the Working Group. We look forward to continuing this productive relationship with the Working Group and our partners to further strengthen our efforts in creating a safe and secure environment for the people of Maldives.

I thank you.