

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 10: General Debate
54th Session of the Human Rights Council
11 October 2023

Mr. President,

The Maldives thanks the High Commissioner for the presentation of a comprehensive report and commends the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its ongoing and vital work in the area of technical cooperation.

We concur with the view that technical assistance and capacity-building provided by the OHCHR play a pivotal role in assisting countries, particularly Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. President,

As a country that played a vital role in the establishment of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund, we are pleased to acknowledge the positive impact of this initiative in facilitating the inclusive and meaningful participation of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries in the work of the Human Rights Council. The Fund has been particularly useful for Member States that do not have a permanent mission in Geneva, to engage actively in the Council's work. Technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives have proven indispensable for SIDS and LDCs in reinforcing their institutional frameworks, facilitating the effective implementation of human rights obligations and promoting greater understanding of the human rights ecosystem.

Mr. President,

Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States face many structural challenges ranging from climate vulnerability to resource limitations. Considering these circumstances, we urge the international community, including United Nations agencies and donor countries, to scale up their assistance for SIDS and LDCs, tailored to their unique needs and priorities.

Mr. President,

The Maldives reaffirms its unwavering commitment to collaborate with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the advancement of human rights in the Maldives.

I thank you.