

**Statement by**

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

**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Housing**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his comprehensive and insightful report. We appreciate that the report sheds light on the issue of spatial segregation, which poses a major obstacle to the proper enjoyment of the right to adequate housing.

Mr. President,

The Maldives shares the Special Rapporteur's concerns regarding spatial segregation as a reflection of discrimination, and is committed in its efforts to provide equal and non-discriminatory enjoyment of the right to adequate housing to all. In the Maldives, the increasing scarcity of land, high costs of reclamation and construction, and to accommodate the growing need to construct multipurpose properties, all require a considered, transparent, and planned system of housing intervention.

Affordability has been our biggest obstacle to achieving adequate equitable housing. To tackle this, the Government has launched a new housing loan programme in July 2021 to improve the availability of land and housing finance. Further, the Government will allocate Council Housing for those who cannot afford housing, including the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, women and single-headed households, and those affected by disasters and displacement.

Mr. President,

The Maldives remains committed to strengthening access to affordable housing in the atolls and would like to ask the Special Rapporteur, what can States do to combat the disproportionate impact of climate change for those living in spatially segregated communities?

I thank you.