

**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 2: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the Human Rights Situation of**  
**Women and Girls in Afghanistan**  
**51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**12 September 2022**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking you for organising this interactive dialogue on the human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

The Maldives is deeply concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, that has profoundly affected the rights of the people of Afghanistan, especially women and girls. We strongly believe that women and girls must have equal opportunities in society as men and be allowed to live with dignity and be able to pursue their dreams without any discrimination.

Mr. President,

The restrictions that Afghani women and girls currently face in accessing education not only impacts their personal lives and their overall wellbeing; it also hinders the sustainable development of the country as a whole. Guaranteeing the right to education without discrimination on the basis of age or gender is of vital importance to building national capacity and achieving sustainable development.

Women and girls must also be allowed to go to work, access health care services, be free to voice out their opinions and to engage in public life without fear of retaliation. Inclusion of Afghani women and girls in all spheres of life is necessary for the country's political stability and social and economic prosperity. Afghanistan must respect, protect and promote the rights of women and girls to demonstrate its commitment to human rights and sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Maldives stands in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, who deserve peace, and prosperity after decades of conflict and turmoil.

Thank you, Mr. President.