

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 Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives thanks the Special Rapporteur for her comprehensive and insightful report. The Maldives remains steadfast in our commitment to strengthening and upholding protections against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

A strong legislative foundation that criminalizes torture is the bedrock of an effective accountability system. In this regard, we welcome that the SR has positively noted the features of the Maldives' legal system in her report, including the establishment of a complaint channel for people in detention and providing heavier penalties for aggravating circumstances in cases of torture.

Acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are prohibited by the Constitution of the Maldives and criminalized in our Penal Code and the Anti-Torture Act. Detainees can reach and log their complaints to the Inspector of Correctional Service on their conditions. While the Inspector has the

power to inspect detention and correctional facilities without prior notice, the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives also engages in proactive monitoring visits to all state detention facilities.

Mr. President,

The Government of the Maldives reiterates its commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring an independent, transparent judicial system. We look forward to continuing to work with the Special Rapporteur and the international community to eliminate torture and uphold the full array of fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution and the UN Charter.

I thank you.