

**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**  
**52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
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Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the presentation of reports by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, under this agenda item.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its continued efforts in upholding the principles of universality, diversity and inclusivity in the works of the Human Rights Council while supporting states in complying with their national and international human rights obligations through various tools and mechanisms.

Mr. President,

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund has been an instrumental tool in enhancing the inclusivity of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council. To date, the Trust Fund has supported the participation of 211 delegates across 71 beneficiary states,

allowing their meaningful contribution to the advancement of the objectives of this Council. As a State that has played an important role in establishing this Trust Fund, the Maldives welcomes the positive impact of this initiative on the promotion of inclusivity and diversity of the Council.

Despite the progress achieved at the Human Rights Council, we are also aware that the challenges faced by both Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States are unique and differ from one another. These challenges have increased multifold, as countries continue to strive for recovery from the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the midst of a triple planetary crisis. We urge all donor States to take into account these unique challenges, and provide adequate technical assistance and capacity building support based on the needs and priorities of SIDS and LDCs.

Mr. President,

The Maldives is committed to working closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a human rights lens, so that no one is left behind.

I thank you.