

Statement by

Ms. Fathika Fayaz

**Second Secretary, 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 Representative of the
Secretary-General on Violence against Women**

52nd Session of the Human Rights Council

15 March 2023

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children for her comprehensive report. It is of great concern that children's vulnerability to violence continues to increase due to multiple crises worldwide.

In addition, as more children go online, it is important that we plan and prepare for a safe online space, given that the digital environment can have harmful consequences if preventative measures are not enforced. Cyberbullying, harassment, online exploitation, and exposure to harmful and inappropriate content have damaging and lasting effects. It is of paramount importance that we integrate children's online protection into national child protection policies.

Mr. President,

The Maldives has taken progressive steps that have laid the foundation for the protection of the rights of children. In 1991, the Maldives was one of the first countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is also party to the Convention's two Optional Protocols. In 2019, the Maldives ratified the Child

Rights Protection Act, ensuring that the national legal framework provides the necessary protection to children. In October 2022, the Government launched a nationwide campaign called ‘Cyber Safe Maldives’, which aims to educate and build awareness amongst parents and caregivers about the negative impacts of digital services on children.

Ensuring children’s healthy growth and development is crucial to the well-being of any society. For this reason, it is important that we take into account the views of children to better understand their needs as we work toward accelerating our efforts to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and put an end to violence against children.

I thank you.