

**Statement by**

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

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on Food, Mr. Michael Fakhi, for his report and for his presentation today on how violence in the food systems can be detrimental for marginalized populations and smaller communities.

Mr. President,

The Maldives, as a Small Island Developing State, is extremely vulnerable to external environmental and economic shocks. As we rely heavily on the import of essential food items, severe disruptions in global supply chains immediately impact our food security. The rising energy and food prices due to conflicts in various parts of the world has negatively affected everyone, especially Small Island Developing States like the Maldives, that rely on imported staple foods and other agricultural commodities.

Mr. President,

To address the vulnerabilities owing to import dependency and food insecurity, the Maldives responded to potential disruptions in food supply by implementing several measures to revive the agriculture sector. In this regard, a state-owned enterprise, Agro National Corporation Pvt Ltd, was established to allow farmers to market and sell their produce. Farmers can now sell locally produced fruits and vegetables to the companies and wholesalers. In the long run, the AgroNat company also plans to reduce imports of certain locally produced crops by 50%, which will boost local production and increase value added in the agricultural sector.

To conclude, we would like to request the Special Rapporteur to share some good practices that have been implemented by states to overcome the rise in food prices related to conflicts.

I thank you.