

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 Environment

52nd Session of the Human Rights Council

9 March 2023

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to thank the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, Dr. David Boyd, for his comprehensive report on women and girls, and the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

The Maldives is deeply concerned by the underrepresentation of women in environmental decision-making as highlighted in the report by the SR, especially given that women and girls are disproportionately impacted by more frequent and severe environmental catastrophes. Addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss requires mainstreaming gender into the global environmental agenda as we strive towards a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Mr. President,

In the Maldives, in order to promote greater involvement of women in policy formulation and decision making, we have already amended the Decentralization Act in 2019, allocating 33 percent of the local council seats to women, which resulted in 388 women being elected to local councils.

The Maldives also co-leads the Feminist Action for Climate Justice under the Generation Equality Forum at UN Women, aiming for focused and concrete actions for the coalition members to reach full equality for women to address climate change. Our goal is to empower women and girls as climate and environmental leaders, nationally and in the multilateral fora, to prioritise gender equality and ensure that women are not left behind as we address environmental concerns.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude, I would like to ask the Special Rapporteur: What are some concrete actions that can be taken to mainstream gender into the environment agenda?

I thank you.