

Statement by

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Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Housing

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his comprehensive report and for his presentation today. We appreciate that the report sheds light on the importance of working towards achieving a just, human rights-based, climate-resilient, and carbon-neutral housing for all.

Mr. President,

The Maldives shares the Special Rapporteur's concerns on how climate-induced extreme weather events and continuing rise in sea level are severely impacting the right to housing. This is especially true for Small Island Developing States like the Maldives who suffer from disproportionate impacts of climate change. Furthermore, we concur with the views of the Special Rapporteur that the climate crisis necessitates the recognition of sustainability as an additional element of adequate housing.

Mr. President,

The Government's Strategic Action Plan prioritizes building resilient communities. In this regard, a regulation for Energy Efficient Certification for new buildings is underway. This regulation aims to provide guidance on how to improve sustainability of buildings and minimize the amount of energy used therein. Additionally, in 2021, a voluntary Energy Efficiency labeling program 'Hakathari' was launched to encourage the use of energy-efficient appliances within buildings.

Mr. President,

The Maldives remains committed to ensuring greater access to affordable and sustainable housing and would like to ask the Special Rapporteur the following; "What are some of the main barriers in achieving a just, green transition in the housing sector, and what can be done to overcome these barriers?"

I thank you.