

Statement by
H.E. Dr. Asim Ahmed
Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the UN and other
International Organisations at Geneva
Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on OHCHR Report on Sri Lanka
54th Session of the Human Rights Council
11 September 2023

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives takes note of the OHCHR report and the oral remarks by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Mr. President,

The Maldives expresses grave concern about the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan and recognizes its adverse impact on the rights of Afghani people particularly women and girls. The numerous hardships and restrictions that hinder their access to education, employment, freedom of movement and healthcare have reversed their development gains and impede the overall development of the country.

Mr. President,

As an advocate for gender equality, Maldives strongly believes that Afghani women and girls must have equal opportunities in society as men. They should be able to pursue their dreams and ambitions without encountering any form of discrimination or retaliation. Ensuring meaningful participation of Afghan women and girls in all spheres of public life is important to build national

capacity, increase economic prosperity and achieve the people's aspirations for sustainable development. In this respect, guaranteeing their right to education without any form of prejudice is of utmost importance.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan must demonstrate its commitment to uphold, promote, protect, and respect human rights, particularly for women and girls, by reversing discriminatory policies and restrictions that inhibit their freedoms and fundamental rights. The Maldives stands in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, who deserve peace, security, and prosperity after decades of conflict and instability.

Thank you.