

SIDS Joint Statement by
His Excellency Dr Asim Ahmed
Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the
United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva
Biennial Panel Discussion on Youth and Human Rights
Theme: Young people's engagement with climate change and global
environmental decision-making processes
54th Session of the Human Rights Council
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Thank you, Mr. President,

I take the floor on behalf of a Group of Small Island Developing States, the full list of which will be available on the HRC Extranet. We would like to thank all speakers for their valuable contribution to this important topic.

For SIDS, our unique characteristics and limited resources, leave us disproportionately affected by the compounding impacts of climate change. As the climate crisis persists, we observe that the vulnerability of our children and youth to the effects of climate change is exceptionally high. This underscores the significance of today's theme for SIDS, emphasising the essential role of our youth in actively addressing climate change, given its daily impact on our lives.

Despite our limited resources, our youth have exhibited unwavering dedication in becoming part of the solution. Youth activism in climate change has gained significant momentum, with young people worldwide advocating for urgent action and raising awareness about the environmental crisis. Many young scientists and engineers, and advocates, worldwide are advancing climate-smart technologies and sustainable infrastructure solutions, with far-reaching benefits across all SDGs. Despite the active involvement of youth in climate adaptation,

they often lack the necessary resources and institutional support to enhance resilience efforts.

Mr. President,

We urge the international community to collaborate with SIDS to empower young people with knowledge, necessary skills and aptitude for more impactful engagement. Multilateral cooperation and solidarity are crucial in addressing these pressing challenges. Climate change affects us all, and it is the youth who hold the future of our planet in their hands.

Thank you.