

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 9: Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's Oral Update on
Drivers, Root Causes and Human Rights Impacts of Religious Hatred
Constituting Incitement to Discrimination, Hostility or Violence**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

My delegation thanks the High Commissioner for his oral update and the presentation on measures and policies necessary to combat religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the Human Rights Council Resolution, 53/1 "combating religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence," demonstrated our commitment to address this important issue.

However, even after the adoption of the resolution, the increasing number of incidents of religious intolerance, negative stereotyping, hatred, and violence against Muslims is concerning. The government of Maldives is deeply alarmed by the repeated desecration of Holy Quran and we strongly condemn such vile acts committed in the guise of freedom of speech and expression.

It is crucial that States establish domestic laws, policies, and law enforcement mechanisms to counter and prosecute such acts and advocacy of religious hatred amounting to incitement of discrimination and violence.

Mr. President,

The Government of Maldives reiterates its call to end all abhorrent acts against Islam. Concerted global and multilateral action is essential to combat the rise of Islamophobia and to uphold the values of tolerance and coexistence, to foster respect, unity, and peace within and between societies.

I thank you.