



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives  
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**Statement to be delivered by Mr. Amin Javed Faizal,  
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Office in Geneva on  
Agenda Item 5:**

**Report of Social Forum**

**At the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**5 June 2013 12:00 – 15:00**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives delegation would like to thank madam chair and rapporteur: Ambassador Alya Al-Thani for her important contributions to the informative report on the 2012 Social Forum. We strongly support the proposed rights-based and people-centered approach to development in the era of globalization. We also highly appreciate the action-oriented recommendations outlined in the report.

Mr. President,

To begin with, we would like to reiterate our understanding of people-centered development conveyed during our participation in the 2012 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council in October 2012. The Maldives believe that respect for sustainable growth and preservation of our natural environment is critical to the promotion of the right to development. The core guidance of sustainable development is to protect the most marginalized and the most vulnerable groups in order to improve their well-being. Moreover, the success of people-centered development lies in the participation and empowerment of the poorest and the weakest people, especially in the least developed and small island developing countries.

The Maldives is proud to share our progressive accomplishment in improving our people's well-being despite facing severe challenges in environmental sustainability and vulnerability to climate change. The adverse consequences of sea level rise is an example of our challenges in maintaining equitable growth and continuously improving standard of living. The Maldives Environmental Management Project of 2008-2014 was implemented to strengthen the institutional and technical framework to monitor and address climate risk. In addition, our National Strategic Action Plan of 2009-2013 supports sustainable human development goals, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups, particularly women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

We agree that the development of economic and social policies need to engage participation from the marginalized and underrepresented groups. Increased transparency and accountability of institutional designs require active and genuine participation at national and community levels of all decision makings. In this regard, cooperation between local communities and international institutions is important in coordinating efforts in promoting fundamental rights of all persons. Moreover, the consequences of increased interconnectedness requires that states, international institutions, and the civil society to enhance the capacity of global governance when addressing problems of global concerns.

To conclude, I would like to express our support in the drafting of operational guidelines for implementing the Declaration on the Right to Development. I would also like to urge all states to seriously reflect the recommendations of the Social Forum in their national policies and advance our concerted efforts to the realization of the Millennium Development Goal and post-2015 development agenda.

I thank you.

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