



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

Statement by Mr. Muruthala Moosa, Third Secretary

**Agenda Item 10: Technical Assistance and Capacity Building
General Debate**

**At the 23rd Session of United Nations Human Rights Council
Geneva, 11 June 2013**

Thank you Mr. President

The Maldives would like to express its appreciation to the High Commissioner for her reports under this item and commend her for the efforts made to provide technical cooperation and capacity building in the field of human rights, particularly to the countries undergoing democratic transitions to strengthen its human rights institutions.

Allow me also to express the appreciation of the Government of Maldives to the OHCHR for the technical cooperation extended to Maldives, by providing technical experts and other assistance through the UN Country Team, to enhance our efforts to promote and protect human rights in the country.

Mr. President,

The Maldives had on several occasions raised the issue of challenges Small Island Developing States, like the Maldives, faces in upholding our commitments and obligations under international human rights mechanisms. We had noted the challenges we face in preparing our National Reports under UPR, as well as the efforts to complete the backlog of reports pending under treaty bodies. Lack of



technical expertise and financial resources limit these efforts in adhering to our commitments.

The Maldives request the OHCHR for the operationalizing of the Voluntary Trust Fund created to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council to build capacity on human rights promotion, which was adopted at the 19th Session of the Council. This trust fund provides a much-needed opportunity for small island states, like the Maldives constrained by human and financial resources or SIDS who do not have a presence in Geneva to participate and contribute to the negotiations.

In conclusion, the Maldives reiterates its call to the OHCHR to strengthen the technical cooperation provided to member states, particularly SIDS and LDCs.

I thank you Mr. President