

8. General Debate under Item 10 on Technical Cooperation

**27th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
Geneva, 8-26 September 2014**

**Agenda Item 10: General Debate – Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building
24 September 2014**

**Statement by
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Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Offices at Geneva**

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Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to take this opportunity to thank the High Commissioner for his comprehensive reports presented to this session. We appreciate and commend the continuous work that is being done by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the human rights mechanisms by providing technical cooperation and capacity building. The Maldives also takes note of the report of OHCHR on activities undertaken at different States, and providing information on lessons learned and ways forward, the experiences of other countries.

The Maldives takes note of the Oral Update by the High Commissioner, on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka. Given the neighborly close relations with Sri Lanka, the Maldives continues to closely observe the domestic situation in Sri Lanka. The Government will continue to encourage Sri Lanka to work with the international community and abide by its commitments. Maldives is pleased that the Government has submitted to Parliament the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Bill in August 2014. As noted in the report, Sri Lankan Government has in July 2014, announced that the mandate of the Commission would be broadened, and six international experts have been invited to act as an advisory group to the Commission. Maldives welcomes the initiatives by the Government of Sri Lanka to cooperate with the international community.

Mr. President,

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The Maldives has always highlighted that the lack of resources and financing are the main challenges to fully realizing human rights in many small island developing states and least developed countries. The Maldives expresses its deep appreciation to the OHCHR for providing such assistance, as requested by Governments in line with their national policies and plans, and with a view to promoting and protecting human rights..

As a Small Island Developing State, the Maldives welcomes the establishment of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of SIDS in the Human Rights Council. The fund has proved to be greatly beneficial to the Maldives, as it has enhanced our ability to participate and contribute to the negotiations in the Council. It has also provided opportunities for countries to participate in the Council for the first time.

Mr. President,

We would also like to highlight the importance of providing technical assistance to states that are undergoing democratic transition, as well as those countries facing civil and political unrest. These countries need assistance in strengthening national institutions and policies in the promotion and protection of human rights. The people in such states are more vulnerable to human rights violations and abuses, as illustrated by the situation in Iraq where the humanitarian crisis has escalated to an alarming level. We believe that preserving inalienable rights of people should take utmost priority, even while attempting to maintain peace and security, but at the same time recognize the limitations of resources in these situations. Therefore we request the council to take special consideration for providing technical support and assistance for protecting human rights in these vulnerable States.

Recognizing all the efforts made by the council so far, we encourage more definitive measures to facilitate international and interregional cooperation in technical assistance, in the hope of achieving equal capacity among all states to fully realize all human rights in the near future.

Thank you Mr. President.