

**Closing Ceremony**

Statement by:

**H.E. Dr Asim Ahmed**

**Ambassador / Permanent Representative of Maldives to the UN  
and other International Organisations at Geneva**

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Thank you Mizna,

Excellencies and Colleagues,

It is an honour to be part of the Closing Ceremony of the LDC/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop for the Asia Region. It gives me great pleasure to thank the OHCHR and the Human Rights Council for working with the Government of Maldives to organise this important workshop to assess the contribution of the Trust Fund in building the capacity of LDC/SIDS for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia Region. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the President of the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid for his opening address. I would like to thank the President of the Human Rights Council Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel, and the Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division Mr. Mahamane Gouro-Cisse for the valuable and inspiring remarks at the opening ceremony.

We are happy to hear that this workshop was able to identify specific recommendations to further strengthen the participation of LDC/SIDS in the work

of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. I would like to congratulate all the participants on the adoption of the Male' Declaration Towards 2022 that's aimed at ensuring that LDC's and SIDS in the Asia region continue to actively engage and participate in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms in the period leading to the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Trust Fund.

Excellencies and Colleagues,

Maldives is proud to be part of the co-group along with Morocco and Mauritius that established this Trust Fund with the purpose of assisting LDC/SIDS countries to effectively engage with the council and its mechanisms. We believe it is vital to promote greater engagement of LDC/SIDS with the international human rights system to support the universalization of human rights. To further this objective, LDC/SIDS Trust Fund has been assisting countries without permanent representation in Geneva and small delegations in Geneva to actively and meaningfully participate in the work of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, the training on human rights issues as well as the fellowship programmes provided under the trust fund has immensely contributed to their effective engagement with the Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the UN member states for their voluntary contribution to ensure LDC/SIDS participation in the work of the council.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To continue this important engagement with the beneficiaries of the Trust Fund, the Male' Declaration towards 2022 has put forward very specific

recommendations on how best to utilise the funding provided by the Trust Fund. Furthermore, Maldives is committed to take an active role in submitting a resolution at the upcoming 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council to further strengthen the Trust Fund. We look forward to working very closely with the OHCHR and other countries in the core group in this endeavour.

Before I conclude, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the staff of OHCHR in particular I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch Mr. Eric Tistounet and his staff especially Ms. Fatou Houel for their tireless efforts to promote the active and meaningful participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the important work of the Human Rights Council. Once again let me congratulate all participants of the workshop for their dedication and valuable contributions towards making this workshop a successful event.

I thank you

