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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 19 September 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Republic of Maldives for election to the Human Rights Council for the period 2023–2025, at the elections to be held during the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, in October 2022.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission has the further honour to transmit herewith the pledges and commitments of the Government of the Republic of Maldives, reaffirming its commitment to the protection and promotion of all human rights (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives would be most grateful if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 117 (c).



Annex to the note verbale dated 19 September 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Maldives to the United Nations Human Rights Council, 2023–2025

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)

In 2010, Maldives made history as the smallest country to ever be elected to the Human Rights Council. One of our greatest priorities in the Council was to give a voice for the voiceless, the marginalized and small and developing countries. With this in mind, Maldives led the work towards the creation of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council. Maldives is also proud to have been a lead sponsor of the resolution renewing the Fund's mandate at the forty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council.

During our two consecutive terms, 2011–2013 and 2014–2016, Maldives led efforts regarding Human Rights Council resolution [16/11](#), entitled “Human rights and the environment,” which initiated the process to establish an independent expert on human rights and environment.

Maldives was a lead negotiator of the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Maldives successfully collaborated with a number of States to create the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

More recently, Maldives also supported the creation of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. Maldives is proud to be a lead co-sponsor of resolution [48/13](#), recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right.

The foreign policy of Maldives enables the strong advocacy role Maldives plays in protecting human rights, respecting good governance and drawing attention, at the Human Rights Council and other human rights forums, to the adverse effects of climate change.

Maldives will be honoured to serve as a member of the Human Rights Council for the term 2023–2025 and seeks your valuable support for its candidature (see enclosure).

(Signed) Abdulla **Shahid**
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

1. Maldives pledges to:

- Adopt a whole-of-society approach to the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Strengthen efforts to achieve gender equality and eliminate violence against women and girls.
- Promote and protect the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- Continue to promote youth advocacy.
- Strengthen national mechanisms and government institutions to mainstream and uphold human rights.
- Engage constructively at the Human Rights Council and with its mechanisms and contribute meaningfully to the treaty body strengthening process.
- Promote inclusivity at the Human Rights Council by encouraging the participation of under-represented States Members of the United Nations.

2. Maldives' foreign policy is based on three main pillars: human rights, democracy and good governance, and climate action. Its membership in the Human Rights Council will be guided by these three core pillars.

Human rights

3. Maldives will continue to advance the protection of human rights both at the national and international levels in partnership with the members of the Human Rights Council, States Members of the United Nations and civil society, guided by the ideals of universality, diversity, inclusivity and equality.

4. Maldives has extended a standing invitation to all thematic special procedures mandate holders since 2006, and this invitation was reaffirmed in 2019. Key recent engagements with the human rights mechanisms include the third cycle of the universal periodic review of Maldives, which was successfully held in 2021, and the review session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, held in October 2021, on the sixth periodic report of Maldives.

Climate action

5. Climate change remains a critical issue for Maldives. Maldives will remain steadfast in persisting at the forefront to ensure environmental sustainability and security. Maldives has always been vocal in the international sphere on issues related to climate change and has been focused on mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

6. Maldives aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, becoming recently the first developing country to have successfully phased out hydrochlorofluorocarbons.

Democracy and good governance

7. Maldives is firmly committed to the promotion of the rule of law, democracy and good governance, both at home and abroad. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Maldives will strive to consolidate the democratic gains at home, while sharing its lessons and experiences with other evolving democracies.

8. Maldives is also an active member of the core group on freedom of assembly and association.