MALDIVES CANDIDATURE TO THE UNHRC 2023-2025


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 marginalised and small and developing countries. With this in mind, Maldives led the work towards the creation of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Maldives is also proud to have been a lead sponsor of the resolution renewing the Fund’s mandate at the 49th session of the Human Rights Council.

During our two consecutive terms: 2011-2013 and 2014-2016, we led the HRC resolution 16/11, “Human Rights and the Environment,” which initiated the process of the establishment of an Independent Expert on human rights and environment. We were a lead negotiator of the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We successfully collaborated with a number of states to create the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to peaceful assembly and association.

More recently, Maldives also supported the creation of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. We are proud to be a lead co-sponsor of resolution 48/13, recognising the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right.

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

The Maldives will be honoured to serve as a member of the Human Rights Council for the term 2023-2025 and seek your valuable support for our candidature.”

Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs

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 UN Member States.
The Maldives' foreign policy is based on three main pillars: human rights, democracy and good governance, and climate action. Our membership at the Human Rights Council will be guided by these three core pillars.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

Maldives will continue to advance the protection of human rights both at the national and international level in partnership with the members of the Human Rights Council, UN member countries and civil society, guided by the ideals of universality, diversity, inclusivity and equality.

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 Maldives UPR, which was successfully held in 2021 and the CEDAW Committee's review session of our Sixth Periodic Report in October 2021.

**CLIMATE ACTION**

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

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

**DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

Maldives is firmly committed to the promotion of the rule of law, democracy and good governance, both at home and abroad. As an HRC member, Maldives will strive to consolidate the democratic gains at home, while sharing our lessons and experiences with other evolving democracies.

Maldives is also an active member of the core group on Freedom of Assembly and Association.