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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GENEVA

**112th Session of the Council of IOM**

**General Debate**

**30 November 2021**

Statement by:

Dr. Asim Ahmed

Ambassador / Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you Madam. Chairperson,

It is a great honour and a privilege to address the 112<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of IOM. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you Ambassador Catalina Devandas Aguilar, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Costa Rica on your selection as the Chair of the Council and would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected Bureau Members.

Madam Chairperson,

The Government of Maldives was able to undertake several important initiatives related to the management of the migrant population with IOM.

In this regard, the Maldives, with the assistance of IOM was able to launch the UN Network on Migration in the Maldives early this year. The main objective of the Network is to facilitate effective, timely and coordinated UN wide actions to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), in accordance with the national priorities. An effective migration approach is a key element, particularly for a small country like the Maldives in achieving the sustainable development goals. We would like to highlight that Maldives supported the United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/195 endorsing the GCM as a multilateral framework that complements its national development commitments. The Government of Maldives was also actively involved in the development of the GCM, and is committed to work with all partners towards the implementation, follow-up and review of the GCM.

Furthermore, we are also happy to note that the Maldives will be working with IOM to establish a Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in the Greater Male' Area of the Maldives. This Centre will offer a safe space for existing international migrants in the Maldives to obtain accurate information on regularization programmes or repatriation options, to understand existing labour rights for migrants and how to stay safe and healthy during the migration process. Through this project, the government will adopt an action plan on the way forward for utilizing accurate and disaggregated migration data as a basis for evidence-based policy making and for sustaining the

Migrant Resource Centre to ensure enhanced protection services and safe migration in the Maldives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank IOM for the close cooperation and valuable support extended to the Maldives in migration management.

Madam Chairperson,

The world continues to face the unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of the Maldives recognises that the migrant population in the Maldives face the same threats as that of citizens. In this regard, the government of the Maldives is continuing to provide COVID-19 vaccines free of charge for all Maldivians and migrant workers residing in the Maldives, irrespective of their legal status. We are proud to say that more than 85% of the total population including the migrant population has now been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

In conclusion, the government of Maldives would like to reiterate our commitment to further strengthen the Maldivian legal framework to provide better protection, to uphold fundamental human rights and to ensure access to services including the national COVID-19 vaccination plan, for all migrant workers within our jurisdiction. We believe that only through a concerted effort can we address the current global challenges and achieve the sustainable development goals.

I thank you