



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# MALDIVES

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**Statement by  
Mr Umar Hilmy, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Maldives to the UN,  
during the eightieth session of the United Nations General Assembly,  
at the Plenary Meeting of the First Committee on Cluster 3: Conventional Weapons**

24 October 2025, New York

Thank you, Chair.

1. The Maldives aligns itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
2. From fueling arms race and organised crime, to increasing the risk of conflict, the impact of small arms and illicit trade weigh heavily on every society it touches.
3. Beyond the devastating human toll, it derails progress towards SDGs, drains economies, and deepens mistrust in institutions – leaving peace out of reach.
4. To mitigate this, we must match our commitments with action on three fronts.
5. First, we must strengthen transparency through reporting.

Too many States fall short of fulfilling their obligations under the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the International Tracing Instrument. This lack of transparency erodes trust and cooperation. Timely and accurate reporting is essential for accountability and real progress.

6. Second, we must close national capacity gaps.

Many countries lack the resources, technology, and training to mark, trace, and destroy illicit weapons effectively. These capacity gaps allow small arms to move too easily across borders and oceans. Weak oversight and lack of data, especially in trade corridors heighten the risk. This is why technical assistance, sustained funding, and peer learning must accompany the commitments.

7. Third, we must align arms control measures with Sustainable Development Goals.

Small arms proliferation diverts resources away from classrooms, hospital, infrastructure, and adaption. It deepens inequality, weakens governance, and traps vulnerable states in cycles of underdevelopment and fear. Aligning arms control with the SDGs is imperative to ensure peace and development go hand in hand.

8. We know the cost. More instability and setbacks. We must strengthen the implementation of the arms control regime and ensure its future ready.

I thank you

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