



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

# MALDIVES

**Statement by  
Her Excellency Shiruzimath Sameer,  
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic  
of Maldives to the United Nations,  
at the  
General Debate of the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the  
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. We meet at a difficult moment for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
  - Trust is low.
  - Tensions are high.
  - Nuclear rhetoric has returned to international politics.
  - Nuclear arsenals are being modernised.
  - And the idea that nuclear weapons provide security is again being presented as normal.
2. For the Maldives, this is deeply troubling.
3. We do not possess nuclear weapons. We do not seek them. We have no history of weapons production or proliferation.
4. But we would not be spared from the consequences of their use. A nuclear detonation anywhere would have consequences everywhere.



5. For Small Island Developing States, already facing the pressures of climate change, sea-level rise, debt stress and external shocks, the consequences would be devastating.
6. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains the cornerstone of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime.
7. The Maldives remains fully committed to the NPT. We believe in its continued relevance. But relevance must be proven through implementation. And an agreed final document.
8. At a time of growing nuclear threat, the world needs this Review Conference to send a clear signal.
9. I will make three points.
10. First, on disarmament, the Maldives reiterates its principled position. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use.
11. Nuclear-weapon States must fulfil their commitments through concrete, transparent, irreversible and verifiable steps.
12. We are deeply concerned by the lack of meaningful progress on nuclear disarmament. Modernisation and expansion of nuclear arsenals divert resources away from the urgent needs of people. Every dollar spent on nuclear weapons is a dollar not spent on climate resilience, health systems, food security, and education.



13. In this regard, the Maldives is a proud State Party of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We see the TPNW as complementary to the NPT and as a clear expression of the will to eliminate nuclear weapons.
14. Second, on non-proliferation, the Maldives calls on all States to fully comply with their obligations under the NPT. The integrity of the Treaty depends on confidence, transparency, safeguards and accountability.
15. We support the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in verifying the exclusively peaceful nature of nuclear programmes. Safeguards must be strengthened and applied without discrimination. The Maldives is the IAEA's newest member, and we remain committed to its core principles.
16. In this context, the Maldives recalls Security Council resolution 487 of 1981, which called upon Israel to urgently place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards. More than four decades later, that call remains unimplemented.
17. The Maldives therefore calls on the IAEA to continue reporting regularly to Member States on the implementation of relevant safeguards-related resolutions concerning the Middle East, including the continued non-implementation of Security Council resolution 487. We further call on Israel to place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive Agency safeguards.
18. This would contribute to the long-standing objective of establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.
19. We also support the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Preventing any further testing is essential to stopping the development of new nuclear weapons.



20. Third, on peaceful uses, the Maldives reaffirms the inalienable right of all States Parties to access nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes, in conformity with the Treaty.
21. For SIDS, peaceful nuclear applications can support development in practical ways, including cancer care.
22. The peaceful uses pillar must therefore be advanced through capacity-building, technology transfer, technical cooperation and equitable access.

Mr. President

23. The world does not need more nuclear weapons.
24. It needs more trust. More restraint. More courage.
25. And it needs us to keep faith with the promise of the NPT: a world free of nuclear weapons.

I thank you.

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