

Statement by Maldives

Ad hoc open-ended working group
Established pursuant to General Assembly 72/277
Third substantive session

Thank you Co chairs,
Good morning and *Ramadan kareem*.

We are extremely grateful and appreciative for the co chairs for the non-paper that includes the draft elements.

Based on the constructive discussions held in January and March, we welcome the draft elements, and I will keep my views brief, given that this is the last meeting and we have no time for general comments.

The draft elements have been helpful in guiding the delegations and would like to note our observations.

The First and second part of the non paper identifying the objectives and substantive recommendations, reflects general views discussed at both meetings, which delegates may be able to agree, and Maldives is appreciative of the elements identified.

However, with regards to the Third part, particularly with regard to process, which the working group will recommend the General Assembly,

And taking note of the views of the delegations with regard to this section,

And building on the discussions held during the previous meetings, it has been observed that there has been different views with regard to the adoption of an instrument, and that there has been no consensus on this element.

Highlighting that our mandate of this group is based on the need for open, transparent and inclusive discussion, with the need for consensus, we emphasise the importance of consensus.

In this regard, Maldives has reservations on this section and we feel the entirety of this section needs to be further revisited or discussed.

However, we are of the opinion that the part two of the non paper, proposes elements that has merit to be recommendations to the General Assembly including the Montevideo Programme V.

We look forward to hearing discussions, take active part in negotiations and work towards consensus making our work constructive and productive,

We thank the co chairs for their efforts. Thank you.