

Thanks you Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the report of the International Fact-Finding Mission presented to this Council today. The Maldives reiterates its condemnation of the clear act of aggression against civilians, especially civilians engaged in humanitarian work, and deeply regrets Israel's non cooperation with the Mission as the occupying power.

As a firm believer in the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Maldives is disheartened by the continued suffering of the people of Palestine, who have been denied their very basic rights to self-determination, and the right to live, in peace and freedom, in their own State, their own homeland. The Maldives also supports the inalienable right of the people of Israel to live in peace and security, alongside a sovereign and independent State of Palestine.

Protection of civilians is one the most sacred obligations resting on the parties to a conflict under international law. Thus, the onus rests with us, as responsible members of the international community, to ensure that we uphold the legal standards and norms we have prescribed for ourselves.

For any hope of peace and stability in the Middle East it is crucial that accountability is established over the clear and manifest violations of human rights and humanitarian law that have been highlighted in the Report.

In this regard, the Maldives endorses the conclusions contained in the report of the fact-finding mission and calls on all parties involved to ensure their immediate implementation. We urge the Council to follow-up on the conclusions and monitor their implementation.

Mr. President,

The Maldives strongly believes that a negotiated outcome based on the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions is the only way to ensure long-term peace, security and stability in the region. The Maldives, therefore, calls for a final, just and comprehensive settlement with the realisation of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and within secure and recognized borders. To this end, we support the ongoing peace talks between the two parties.

Thank you Mr. President.