

IV. Interactive dialogues with UN Special Procedures

- **Special Rapporteur on Torture**

As a proactive member of the core-group supporting the renewal of **the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**, and considering the Maldives recent experience dealing with torture at the domestic level it was vital that the Maldives contributed to the Interactive Dialogue with UN Special Rapporteur on *Torture*. Maldives explained that the Government has taken a number of steps to eradicate torture in the Maldives including the ratification of CAT, OPCAT and welcoming the SPT to Maldives whilst strengthening domestic legislation providing redress for victims. Maldives welcomed the Special Rapporteur's victim-orientated approach that penetrates to the heart of what it means to be tortured and how best overcome such trauma. The balance of political sensitivities in Maldives should not be an obstacle to implementing a durable domestic commitment to underscoring past crimes and future legislation to alleviate the effects of such crimes. Maldives asked the Special Rapporteur for his perspective on how best to prevent torture whilst ensuring that the fragile democratic fabric is not threatened an occurrence that could make torture more common.

As a committed advocate for the protection of human rights in the Middle-East region, Maldives participated in the interactive dialogue with the **Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories**. Maldives noted the content of the Special Rapporteur's most recent report underscoring the continuing number of alleged human rights abuses. Deputy Permanent Representative, Ms. Liusha

Zahir, concurred with the report stating that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) must move to investigate the number of systematic expulsions and forced transfers contravening international law. Maldives also called on Israel to adhere to its international human rights law and humanitarian law commitments to ensure the high-standards set by the UN Charter are adhered to – it is crucial for accountability to be achieved for all Palestinians.