

**Statement by H E Iruthisham Adam, Permanent Representative of Maldives:
Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Libya**

Thank you Mr. President,

My Delegation aligns with the statement delivered by Jordan from the TNC.

The Maldives would like to begin by stating, on the record, that it does not recognize the legitimacy of the regime of Muammar Ghadaffi, or the legitimacy of those who are here to speak on his behalf today. The Maldives delegation is ashamed to share the room with the representatives of a man who has used his military and paramilitary forces to kill and torture thousands of innocent people, including women and children. We struggle to comprehend or to find the words to describe such brutality.

Let me be very clear: the only reason we have agreed to share this chamber with the representatives of Muammar Ghadaffi is in order to allow the Council to continue the important work it began with February's Special Session: namely to hold Muammar Ghadaffi and his associates accountable for their crimes, and to secure justice for those who have suffered and died at his hands.

Mr. President,

The Maldives would like to thank the Commission of Inquiry for its report.

Whilst the report is long and detailed, the story it tells is a simple one.

For decades, the people of Libya have lived under a system of government described in the report as "one-man rule using fear, intimidation and incentives based on loyalty". Under the government of Muammar Ghadaffi, Libyans have never been allowed to voice their thoughts, to read a free press, to question their leaders, to form parties and associations, to gather and demand improvements in the lives, or to choose their government. And yet, though people in Libya were never allowed to *enjoy* these basic rights, they did, like all people, irrespective of race or religion, *aspire* to them.

It was against this background that the rising tide of the Arab Spring reached the borders of Libya, giving hope that Libyans, like their brothers and sisters elsewhere in North Africa, could at last secure change through the force of their will and through the power of their ideas. Fueled by this hope, thousands took to the streets to protest and to call for reform.

Yet instead of listening and responding to the legitimate aspirations of the protest movement, the regime of Muammar Ghadaffi choose instead to use his state security apparatus to crack-down, to tighten rather than loosen his grip, to intimidate rather than to talk, to put his own narrow self-interest before the well-being of his people and his country.

The moment he did so, he and his government became directly responsible for the tragic events which have unfolded ever since – including the deaths of thousands of innocent men, women and children, and the serious and widespread violations of all human rights including through arbitrary killings, arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance, torture, the targeting of journalists, and sexual violence.

Because of these and other crimes committed by the Tripoli authorities, the Commission of Inquiry has concluded that crimes against humanity and war crimes have been committed in Libya. The Maldives supports this conclusion.

Mr. President,

As soon as the Ghadaffi regime perverted its duty to protect its own population by committing such gross and systematic human rights violations and by using military hardware to target Libyan civilians, he lost his legitimacy and his right to govern. At that moment, it fell to the international community to step in to protect the lives and rights of the people of Libya, and to ensure accountability for crimes committed.

The Maldives is pleased that the international community has indeed stepped in. We continue to strongly support international military intervention in Libya aimed at protecting the civilian population under Security Council resolution 1973 and, as a main cosponsor of February's Human Rights Council Special Session on Libya, we strongly support the work of this body to ascertain the facts, to secure accountability and to fight impunity.

The report before us represents another important step along the road to truth, accountability and justice. The report is, in our opinion, fair, balanced and authoritative.

We concur with the report's findings and call on the Tripoli regime to fully and unconditionally implement the recommendations addressed to it. We also call on the National Transitional Council, which we recognize as the only legitimate body representing the aspirations of the Libyan people, to implement the recommendations put to it and to continue its efforts to strengthen human rights. It is important for the NTC to lead by example, and in-so-doing to point the way towards a better future for all Libyans.

Thank you.