

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



PERMANENT MISSION OF MALDIVES  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

**Statement to the General Debate under Agenda Item 7:  
Human rights situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab territories  
to be delivered by Mr. Muruthala Moosa, Third Secretary of the  
Permanent Mission of Maldives 24 September 2012, Geneva.**

Thank you Madam President,

The Maldives aligns itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of OIC.

The Maldives is appalled by the continuing climate of impunity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Basic human rights which we take for granted in any democratic society, continued to be denied on a daily basis in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Disproportionate use of force, deliberate destruction of infrastructure, growth of the illegal settlements both by Israeli and international law, continued in an atmosphere of impunity with no hope for redress or justice.

Construction of illegal settlements by Israel in the OPT including East Jerusalem, and the occupation itself remains the key obstacle to the realization of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Illegal settlement activity will push the prospect of a fair, just and durable peace envisioned by the United Nations further away – above all establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state. The Maldives reiterates its call for a halt to all illegal settlement activity by Israel in the OPT.

We are also deeply concerned by Israel's practice of so-called "administrative detention". Thousands of Palestinians are detained for prolonged periods of time without prosecution, or even without informing them of charges against them, who seemingly do not pose any security threats. The practice of detainees being treated to cruel and harsh punishments during their detentions are clear violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The Maldives also concurs with High Commissioner in her opening statement to this Session that the Council needs to remain focused on the plight of the people in OPT, and indeed, should increase its attention, in the face of Israel's deliberate policy of non-cooperation with this Council, making a mockery of this August body. This culture of impunity should end.

Madam President,

Over the decades the Maldives supported that right of self-determination for Palestinian people. In this regard, once again, the Maldives renew its call for a Palestinian State, on the basis of 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

We support Palestinian's brave push for independence and statehood in the United Nations, not only because it is just, But this is - the only way -for Palestinian people to be represented in an equal footing in the peace talks as interlocutors for the resumption of talks leading to a peaceful settlement.

I thank you, Madam President.