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Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**Statement to be delivered by
H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam, Ambassador/Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Maldives in response to the report by the
UN High Commissioner's for Human Rights, 10 September 2012, Geneva**

Thank you Madam President,

The Maldives delegation would like to thank the High Commissioner for her statement.

As the High Commissioner mentioned, at the end of August the Maldives Commission of National Inquiry (CONI) presented the final report of its investigations into the circumstances surrounding the transfer of power following the resignation of former President Mohamed Nasheed on February 7th this year.

The CONI report conclusively found that President Nasheed's resignation and President Waheed's subsequent elevation were fully within the contours of the country's Constitution, meaning there can no longer be any question as to the legitimacy or otherwise of the current Government.

The report also identified institutional weaknesses, a series of actions by the former administration which were counter to the rule of law, as well as a number of alleged human rights violations committed around February 7th. The current Government has committed to act on all the Commission's findings and to pursue its recommendations.

Immediately after the release of the report, President Dr. Mohamed Waheed addressed the nation and called for all-party talks, which began in the evening. A new process of dialogue between political parties, the Leader's Dialogue for further dialogue is underway.

The Maldives would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to the members of the international community who have promptly welcomed the findings of the report and reiterated their support to the CONI's findings.

The Maldives would also like to thank the High Commissioner for responding to the request of the Government to re-deploy the Human Rights Adviser. We have benefited from the presence of the OHCHR Adviser in the Maldives in the past, especially during the implementation of the democratic reform agenda. We look forward to receiving support from the OHCHR to promote and protect human rights of the Maldivians.



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Madam President,

The High Commissioner's report also notes the continued atrocities being committed in Syria. The Maldives takes this opportunity to renew its call for an end to all violence, and for a political transition culminating in free and fair elections. We believe that anyone guilty of gross and systematic human rights violations must not participate in the new Syria.

We also concur with High commissioner's conclusion that the Council needs to remain focused on the plight of the people in Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Maldives would like to renew the call for a halt to all settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and for the resumption of talks leading to a peaceful settlement. The only way to do so is the creation of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state, which can represent Palestinian people in an equal footing in the peace talks as its interlocutors.

Finally, Madam President,

The Maldives would like to emphasize the importance of the recent Rio Summit on sustainable development and in that regard, we look forward to the active involvement of the new UN Independent Expert on human rights and the environment in Rio follow-up processes. It is clear that the enjoyment of human rights and the enjoyment of a clean and healthy environment are mutually-dependent and mutually-reinforcing.

Thank you, Madam President.