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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,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the
Interactive Dialogue with Commission of Inquiry on Syria
17 September 2012, Geneva**

Madame President,

On behalf of the Maldives Delegation, I would like to thank the members of the Commission for their continuous efforts in conducting an independent and objective inquiry on Syria. We also thank Mr. Paulo Pinheiro for providing us today with new information based on extensive investigations and interviews.

We reaffirm our strong support for the Commission of Inquiry in collecting and preserving evidence and keeping track of the crimes and violations perpetrated in all parts of Syria.

The Maldives also wishes to add its voice to those delegations calling for the extension of the Commission's mandate, with adequate resources at its disposal as current situation outstrips the Commission's ability to investigate them.

Madam President,

Based on the new findings of the Commission, the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic had deteriorated significantly since July 2012 and had taken a brutal turn. Human rights violations in Syria had grown in number, pace and scale during the past three months. We also note that civilians make up the largest share in casualties and death toll, including women and children. The Maldives condemns the gender-based violence against women in Syria occurring on a daily basis.

We are concerned about the scarcity of food, water, gas and medical supplies in many cities of the country such as the capital Damascus, Idlib, Aleppo, Homs, Daraa, Latakia, increasing Syrians seeking refuge in the neighboring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey.

Madam President,

There are reasonable grounds to believe that massive human rights violations and crimes against humanity are occurring in Syria on a daily basis. Impunity for such violations are



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unacceptable; therefore, we insist on the need for accountability and join our voice to all those calling for the issue of Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

We are alarmed that the conflict in Syria is spilling over neighboring countries, threatening their own security and that of the region as a whole.

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 welcome the appointment of H.E. Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, as the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and League of Arab States and support his Mission to bring an immediate stop to violence and continue dialogue towards finding a durable solution to the crisis.

I thank you Madam President