



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

**Statement at Interactive Dialogue with the Independent International
Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic**

**23rd Session of Human Rights Council by
H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives**

Geneva, 4 June 2013

Mr President,

The Maldives welcomes the Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, and its most recent updates. We further commend the work of the Commission, and its periodic reporting which has enlightened the international community about the nature of violations committed by Government forces and affiliated militia, and also by anti-government armed groups. We also welcome the recommendations contained in the periodic update, to all concerned stakeholders in general and to the Human Rights Council in particular.

We remain deeply concerned by the regional dimensions shaping the conflict in recent months, with unthinkable consequences for the peace and stability of the entire region. These interventions by regional non-state actors undermine international efforts to reach a political settlement, and threaten the sovereignty of neighbouring countries.

Mr President,

From a human rights perspective, due to the long list of gross and systematic violations that have taken place, and continue to be committed by both sides, it has become impractical for my delegation to list them out. We condemn in the strongest terms these violations, and reiterate our support to all international efforts to hold the perpetrators of these crimes accountable for their actions, and the situation in Syria must be referred to the International Criminal Court. We believe, given the scale of the violence that have taken place and the destruction inflicted by both sides with

little or no regard to international law, there can be no lasting peace and no reconciliation, without comprehensively addressing the issue of accountability.

The Maldives finds the reports of the use of chemical agents disconcerting and condemns the use of such weapons under any circumstances. We urge that the Panel of Experts convened under the Secretary-General's mechanism be allowed full access to Syria to verify these claims and to investigate the allegations of their use.

During the Urgent Debate on Syria last week, the Maldives endorsed the extended mandate given to the Commission to investigate the killings in the city of Al-Qusayr. We look forward to further updates on this dreadful situation, and support the Commission in carrying out its mandate.

Lastly Mr President, we agree with the Commission's conclusions that there is no military solution to the conflict, and that a comprehensive and inclusive political process must take place, within the confines of an international framework to end the bloodshed. We remain encouraged by the efforts taken by a number of countries to hold an International Conference on Syria, here in Geneva and will continue to extend our full support to reach a negotiated settlement, with a clear vision for post-conflict reconciliation.

Thank you Mr. President.
