



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

**Statement at the Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the  
SR on the on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of  
non-recurrence**

**24<sup>th</sup> Session of Human Rights Council by  
Javed Faizal, Counsellor,  
Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations Offices in  
Geneva**

**Geneva, 12 September 2013**

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Mr President,

Let me first of all welcome the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence Mr. De Greiff, and thank him for his report to the Human Rights Council and for his informative presentation this afternoon. The focus of the present report on the effectiveness and functioning of national truth and reconciliation commissions are both timely and pertinent, given the political situations in the world where countries in transition or in the middle of democratic consolidation often find themselves at a crossroads, unable to overcome past atrocities or to redress former grievances in a manner that could be fruitful, reconciliatory and guarantee their non-recurrence in the future.

In reality, truth seeking mechanisms in a period of transition face a number of difficult challenges, especially ex-post, which you have explained in detail, in your report. While to some varying degrees such commissions have been quite active in the

past in contributing to the national reconciliation and healing process, its strength and effectiveness are ultimately tied to the manner in which operates, its mandate and more importantly, its composition. In this regard, we cannot emphasize more the nature of the appointment of commissioners to such mechanisms, as their moral authority and credibility would directly influence the perception of such mechanisms, and eventually its success. The design of such mandates should be fully representative of society as a whole, including from a gender and minorities perspective. Therefore, we support your recommendations that the formulation guidelines, best practices and criteria could be helpful in this context.

Its also important to take note of the role played by civil society in complimenting the role of such mechanisms, especially during periods of transition when a state-sanctioned frameworks might not exist, or could be ineffective.

Mr President,

The Maldives welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur in his report and appreciates the insights he has provided on the broader issues.

The world is going through a turbulent time; too often have communities found it extremely difficult to move beyond their immediate grievances and past atrocities, which result in a vicious cycle of fear and intimidation, intolerance and bloodshed.

We firmly believe the right to truth is a state obligation, espoused by various international instruments and mechanisms, and we will continue to welcome all efforts to mainstream it. Let me conclude by extending our deep appreciation to all contributions made by the Special Rapporteur, and assure him of our full support to his important mandate.

Thank you Mr President