



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

24th Session of United Nations Human Rights Council
Geneva, 9 – 27 September 2013

**Agenda Item 7: General Debate – Human Rights Situation in Palestine and
Other Occupied Arab Territories
23 September 2013**

**Statement by HE Ms. Iruthisham Adam,
Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Mr. President.

At the outset, the Maldives aligns itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of OIC.

The Maldives thanks the Secretary-General for his report on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem. Once again the Maldives condemns the continued, systematic and gross violations of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying power in a climate and culture of impunity.

Israel continued its defiance of international law, through a vast array of actions such as illegal settlements, separation wall, collective punishment, blockade of Gaza, disproportionate use of force and administrative detention. The Maldives is also concerned on the Access Restricted Areas (ARAs) both in land and on the sea, reducing Palestinian's output in fisheries and agriculture industries in an area where 1/3 of the population is already unemployed.

Acts of violence by Israeli settlers continued to be perpetrated against Palestinians and their property, impacting negatively upon their physical security, access to livelihoods and natural resources, as well as access to education.

We are also appalled by the individual cases of use of force by Israeli Defense Forces without any regard to civilians which resulted in loss of lives and injuring others, including women and children. According to UNICEF, ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli detention system is widespread, systematic and institutionalized.

Mr. President,

The Maldives had always believed that without a Palestinian state there will never be Palestinian rights. Over the decades, the Maldives supported Palestinian right to self-determination and once again we renew our call for a Palestinian State, on the basis of 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

In this regard, Maldives welcomes the resumption of peace talks between Israel and Palestine. The Maldives hopes that the resumption of the negotiations would lead to improvement of human rights situation on the ground. Such steps on the ground, would also reinforce the peace-process itself.

In conclusion we call upon the State of Israel to immediately freeze its illegal settlement programme, dismantle the separation wall, to end the culture and climate of impunity and to end its policy of occupation. The Maldives also call upon Israel to resume its cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

I thank you.