

Statement by the Delegation of the Maldives

Universal Periodic Review of Israel

The Maldives would like to welcome the delegation of Israel to this UPR Working Group.

The Maldives notes with appreciation Israel's engagement with international human rights instruments. Israel is party to all of the core human rights treaties and has also signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Israel demonstrates a strong level of cooperation with the Treaty Bodies under these Conventions. Likewise with Special Procedures, despite not currently extending a Standing Invitation, Israel has nevertheless received visits by a wide-range of Special Rapporteurs.

As a consequence of this engagement, there has been a steady improvement in the promotion and protection of human rights for people living *in* Israel over recent years, with efforts to improve the lives and women and persons with disabilities particularly noteworthy.

Notwithstanding, as noted by all Treaty Bodies, improvements in the enjoyment of human rights in Israel proper, are not matched by improvements in territories under its effective control, especially the Occupied Palestinian Territory. This reflects Israel's refusal to recognize the applicability of international humanitarian and human rights law beyond its own territory.

Indeed, it is clear that the human rights of Palestinians continue to be undermined on a massive scale. This is a tragedy for Palestinians, but also, ultimately, for Israelis. Until the fundamental rights of the Palestinian People are fully and effectively protected and honoured, the inalienable right of every person in the region to live in peace, security and prosperity will never be realized.

With this in mind, the Maldives would make the following recommendations to Israel:

1. To end the occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
2. To recognize and respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and their right to establish an independent sovereign Palestinian State.
3. To accept and respect its obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law with respect to the Palestinian people.
4. To acknowledge and fully implement the ruling of the International Court of Justice that Israel should immediately cease work on the construction of the wall being built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and then begin dismantling it.
5. To fully and immediately implement all Human Rights Council resolutions in relation to the situation of human rights in the Occupied Territories.