



Ms. Shazva Abdul Sattar
First Secretary

17.

Statement by the Maldives at the 11th Special Session
of the Human Rights Council

26th May 2009, Geneva

Thank you Mr. President,

The Government of Maldives appreciates the opportunity to present to the Council the support for the pursuance of lasting peace in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The Government of Maldives has always been concerned about terrorism in Sri Lanka and the suffering this has imposed on all its communities for the past 25 years. While the matter is largely an internal matter for the Government of Sri Lanka, terrorism in Sri Lanka had affected the Maldives directly and indirectly as well. Therefore, we are happy that the Government of Sri Lanka has achieved a significant victory in combating terrorism in Sri Lanka and liberating all communities in the country from the scourge of terrorism.

We hope that the victory for the Government of Sri Lanka over terrorism will usher in a new era of peace progress and ethnic harmony. We express our strong support for the Sri Lankan Government's efforts to build a revitalized country premised on the full enjoyment of human rights for all Sri Lankans. We also note the Sri Lankan Government's commitment to returning displaced persons to their homes as soon as possible, and to pursuing national reconciliation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction according to international best practice. We hope that international stakeholders will contribute to these endeavours. His Excellency President Mohamed Nasheed has already pledged the full support of the Maldives in this regard.



Mr. President,

The Government of Maldives also notes with appreciation and commends His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapakse's reassurance during his speech at the special parliamentary session that he does not consider a military solution as a final solution but is committed to seeking a political solution in consultation with all political parties.

We are confident that the Government of Sri Lanka will pursue a political solution with the same determination and will satisfy the aspirations of all the diverse ethnic groups that make up Sri Lanka.

We wish the Sri Lankan people lasting peace and prosperity.

Thank you Mr. President.