

Maldives



Thanks you Mr. President,

Since it is the first time the Maldives is taking the floor under this agenda item, we would like to welcome the reports of the fact finding mission headed by Justice Richard Goldstone and the High Commissioner for Human Rights that were presented to this Council today.

The Maldives strongly supports the right of the people of Palestine to freely determine their own political and economic system, including the right to resist forcible deprivation of their right to self-determination and the right to live, in peace and freedom, in their own State, their own homeland. We also support the right of the people of Israel to live in peace and security. Perhaps the greatest tragedy of the Gaza conflict is that, although fought to assert these rights, it in fact pushes them further away.

The Maldives does agree that the clear and manifest violations of human rights and humanitarian law that have occurred in Gaza do warrant careful and verifiable scrutiny, that accountability must be established, and that justice must be pursued. The Maldives therefore supports the recommendation, contained in the Goldstone report, that all alleged violations by both sides in the conflict be independently investigated and that those investigations together with any subsequent prosecutions, be monitored by the Security Council.

Mr. President,

The Maldives strongly believes that a negotiated outcome based on the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions is the only way to ensure long-term peace, security and stability in the region. The Maldives, therefore, calls for a final, just and comprehensive settlement with the realisation of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and within secure and recognized borders. To this end, we support the current efforts by the United States to revive the peace talks between the two parties.

We would also like to express our grave concern with regard to the situation in the Occupied Syrian Golan and call on the Government of Israel to end its occupation and to allow the people of Occupied Syrian Golan to live with dignity, peace and security.

Thank you Mr. President.

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