



The report of the Commission of Inquiry is detailed and convincing, cataloguing a wide-range of gross and systematic violations of human rights in Syria.

However, amongst the Commission's many findings, a few stand out as particularly important.

First that the scale and systematic nature of human rights violations indicate that they were conducted pursuant to a policy of the State. And that second, therefore, that crimes against humanity have been committed in Syria.

Mr. President,

With this conclusion ringing in our ears, we, the representatives of the international community, must determine upon our response.

To the Maldives mind this means that we must send a clear united signal that any government which maintains power by killing and intimidating its own people has lost its legitimacy and its right to govern. We therefore repeat our call, made at the last Special Session, for President Bashar al-Assad and his government to step aside in order to allow for a meaningful democratic transition.

We must also recognize that the Syrian government has failed in its primary responsibility to protect its own people and that therefore the international community must step-in to fulfill its own responsibility to protect. We therefore strongly support the call, made in the draft resolution before us, for the findings of the Commission of Inquiry report to be transmitted to the General Assembly and other main UN bodies for their consideration.

Thank you Mr. President.