

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

**Statement by
Mr. Javed Faizal, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the UN Offices in Geneva
Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the Situation of Human Rights
in the Central African Republic**

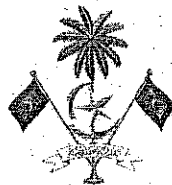
Monday, 20th January 2013

Mr. President,

The Maldives remains deeply troubled by the situation in the Central African Republic, and appreciates the timely convening of this Special Session. We support the early appointment of the Independent Expert and commend OHCHR's active engagement on this important issue. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the preliminary findings of the OHCHR's monitoring mission and the updates to the situation provided by the High Commissioner today.

Mr President,

The Government of Maldives calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities between the ex-Séléka and anti-Balaka in the Central African Republic. We are alarmed by reports of gross violations of human rights in Bangui and Bossangoa especially during the month of December resulting in a vicious cycle of violence and indiscriminate killings perpetrated by both Muslim and Christian populations. Furthermore, we remain concerned about allegations of external involvement, which can further escalate an already volatile situation and calls on all parties to refrain from all acts, which may undermine any rapprochement between the conflicting parties.



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From a human rights perspective, women and children are particularly vulnerable in conflict situations and we fully condemn all sexual and gender based violence committed by armed groups, including rape and sexual slavery in the Central African Republic. We call on all parties to fully implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 concerning the protection of women and girls from sexual violence in armed conflict. We further call on armed groups to cease and desist the recruitment and use of child soldiers and to release any children in their ranks.

The Maldives support all international efforts to hold perpetrators accountable for their violations, and therefore calls for the urgent deployment of the International Commission of Inquiry to investigate War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity, and gross violations of human rights.

Mr President,

The humanitarian situation on the ground continues to deteriorate, and we commend the UN's emergency response to the crisis. While the needs continue to outpace the resources on the ground, my delegation believes that an adequate and robust response to the humanitarian crisis is urgently needed.

We fully support the work of MISCA and other peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic, and the work of the UN system to bring the crisis to an end before it spirals out of control, including its efforts to address the deteriorating humanitarian situation on the ground. Finally, the Maldives welcomes the efforts of local and national actors, including religious and community leaders to promote reconciliation and expresses its sincere hopes that such efforts in the future, coupled with international support would be sufficient to avert disaster.

Thank you Mr President.