



73

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

**17th Session of the Universal Period Review Working Group
Geneva, 21 October-1 November 2013**

**Review of Israel
29 October 2013**

**Statement by H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva**

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives welcomes the decision by the Israeli Government to resume its cooperation with the Council and its mechanisms. We regret however, that the country's national report – an integral part of the process was submitted only in the last minute.

Furthermore, we note that Israel's decision not to participate as scheduled in January 2013 set a harmful precedent for the entire mechanism, and hopes that the Working Group can move forward to rectify this while preserving the integrity and the credibility of the UPR mechanism.

The Maldives would like to make the following recommendations:

1. To uphold its obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law, and to implement all relevant Council resolutions including those under 7, not only in its own territory, but also in places under its control.
2. To recognize and respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to end the occupation of all territories occupied since 1967.
3. To dismantle the separation wall and to halt the expansion of illegal settlements.

The Maldives believes that honouring and implementing all Council resolutions and participating in key mechanism such as the UPR are crucial steps for all United Nations members in order to improve human rights in all States.



-2-

In that sense, we are deeply concerned by the Israeli practices in Palestine and in the other territories under its control and its absence of commitment towards UN bodies, and violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

The human rights situation in Palestine and in the occupied territories is becoming more alarming for the international community. The expansion of illegal settlements and the separation wall not only violates human rights during the reviewing period, but also will continue to do for generations to come. It completely destroys the prospects for a viable Palestinian State, and with it, peace in the Middle East.

I thank you.