

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



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

**25<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council  
on the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic,  
and the recent situation in Aleppo  
21<sup>st</sup> October 2016**

Statement by:

Her Excellency Ms Hala Hameed,  
Ambassador | Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives  
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*(Check Against Delivery)*

Thank you Mr President,

The Republic of Maldives welcomes this special session of the Human Rights Council focusing on the deteriorating situation of human rights in Syria, embroiled in what is now the sixth year of its current conflict.

Today's focus on Aleppo is particularly appropriate. It is a city in which more than 250,000 innocent people remain trapped; without basic amenities, in danger of losing all access to water, and with countless lives lost every day; without relief or even much hope emanating from the international community. Instead Aleppo, like the situation in much of Syria, is testament to one of the greatest failures of our community of nations, and indeed every major organ of this United Nations.

Mr President

Maldives acknowledge the cessation in bombings by Syria and Russia, to enable humanitarian needs to be addressed, and wishes for this to continue rather than be a temporary measure to avoid further civilian casualties. The cessation of hostilities and the provision of corridors by which civilians would be allowed to leave the besieged city is clearly a welcome first step. However, it fails to account for those most vulnerable populations still trapped within the war-torn city.. Our obligation extends to them too. The current conduct of this war will seal their fates. Sadly they will pay with their final measure for our failure to meet our humanitarian imperative.

Mr President

Maldives calls for immediate halt for attacks against civilians, and continue with the cessation of bombing with monitoring and transparency of the ceasefire and allow unimpeded, continuous and safe access to humanitarian aid to all civilians. We also call those responsible for the ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity to be made accountable for these atrocities.

The Maldives understands the solution is not a military one, but rather a political one, but we urge the UNSC and GA (and other relevant bodies) to facilitate conditions which are necessary to reach such a solution.

We pray that our collective will overcomes the weight of our failures and rises to alleviate the suffering of the people of Syria, Aleppo in particular.

Thank you.