

**Statement by**

**His Excellency Dr. Asim Ahmed**

**Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations and other International Organizations at Geneva**

**Item 7: General Debate**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives aligns itself with the joint statements from OIC and NAM.

I would like to start by stating that the Government of Maldives supports this agenda item, and reaffirms our solidarity with the people of Palestine and their right to self-determination. The Maldives firmly believes that lasting peace can only be possible with a two-State solution, in which the State of Palestine achieves its sovereignty based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Unilateral measures that go against the grain of this internationally accepted arrangement are regressive and illegal.

Mr. President,

The Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights documents an almost total failure to ensure accountability for numerous allegations of the excessive use of force by Israeli forces in law enforcement operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Widespread and pervasive impunity of this degree is unacceptable. Therefore, we request the international community to enforce

accountability mechanisms in an effort to uphold and promote basic human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We would also like to join the call for a permanent end to the unlawful occupation of Palestinian lands, and to accord the Palestinian people their legitimate right to self-determination.

I thank you.