

**Statement by**

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**Item 7: General Debate**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives aligns itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC.

The Government of Maldives reaffirms its solidarity with the Government of the State of Palestine and reiterates its unwavering support for the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. We would also like to express our support for this agenda item as a space to continue to advocate for their rights to self-determination.

Last year, over 160 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, the most lives lost in a single year in nearly two decades. For years, the Maldives has urged the international community to address the plight of the Palestinian people. We will continue to call for full Palestinian statehood and keep reminding the international community of their responsibility to promote and protect the full enjoyment of the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian people.

Already in 2023, we are witnessing more bloodshed and destruction as measures that violate human rights laws continue to be implemented. We join the call to stop the collective punishment of Palestinian families and bring an end to impunity for violence against Palestinians.

Mr. President,

The Government of Maldives firmly believes a two-State solution, based upon the pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of

Palestine, offers the only path to lasting peace, where the people of both countries live in peace and security. We must recommit ourselves with renewed urgency to the two-state solution which will bring justice to the Palestinian people and recognize their full rights and freedom.

Thank you.