

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 2: Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's Report on the
Occupied Palestinian Territories**

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives extends its appreciation to the High Commissioner for the comprehensive and insightful report.

The Maldives stands in solidarity with the people of Palestine in their struggle for self-determination. We share the High Commissioner's concerns for the ongoing human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and as highlighted in the report, at least 161 Palestinians were killed and 10,298 were injured by Israeli security forces. The Government of Maldives calls upon Israel to put an end to the use of excessive force and to conduct prompt, independent, impartial and effective investigations on the death or injury of Palestinians, and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable.

Mr. President,

It is time that the international community ensures protection of Palestinian people, especially women and children. We must recommit ourselves with renewed urgency to a solution which recognizes the full rights of the Palestinian people to live in peace, dignity, and harmony. Last year was the most brutal in

terms of civilian deaths in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and we appreciate the de-escalation efforts, including the recent efforts by Jordan.

We firmly believe that an internationally accepted two-state solution is the only viable and long-term solution to find lasting peace to the question of Palestine. Towards this end, the Maldives calls for the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its Capital. We join the call for a permanent end to the unlawful occupation of Palestinian lands and the violation of their inalienable human rights.

I thank you.