

Statement by

His Excellency Dr. Asim Ahmed

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**Item 1: Urgent Debate on the Situation of Human Rights in Ukraine
Stemming from the Russian Aggression**

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Mr. President,

I would like to begin by thanking you for convening this urgent debate on the security situation in Ukraine.

As we meet here today, Ukraine is under attack by a military offensive of the Russian Federation. The Maldives remains deeply concerned by the violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law stemming from the conflict, and we join others in calling for respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

Mr. President,

The Maldives has always taken a principled stand on violations of the territorial integrity of a sovereign country. All States, irrespective of their size or might, must respect the principles enshrined in the UN Charter as paramount. In 1989, the Maldives proposed and advocated for General Assembly resolution 44/51 on the *Protection and security of small States*, notably stressing the vital importance of

principles such as sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Mr. President,

As a small State, the Maldives relies on international law, the UN charter, and the strength of our multilateral system to protect us. As we observe the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the Maldives calls on the international community to take action to uphold the universal human rights of Ukrainian citizens. Thus, we encourage all parties to engage in enhanced diplomatic efforts, exercise restraint and caution, and take constructive steps to deescalate tensions and seek to resolve the current situation expeditiously and peacefully.

Thank you.