

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



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

**Statement to be delivered by H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam,**

**Ambassador/Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Maldives to the United Nations Office in Geneva on Agenda Item 7: General Debate**

**At the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**Monday, 10 June 2013**

Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset, the Maldives aligns itself with the statement delivered by Pakistan, on behalf of OIC.

The Maldives condemns the continued, systematic and gross violations of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying power, and the climate of impunity in the OPT.

Mr. President,

Israel's continued defiance of international law, through the prolonged occupation, illegal settlements and construction of the wall in OPT remains the key obstacle to the realization of the inalienable rights of Palestinian people to self-determination. These actions, continue to push realization of two-state solution further and further away, if not unattainable.

This culture of impunity must end. And against Israel's defiance and culture of non-cooperation with UN's human rights mechanisms, it is imperative that this Council needs to remain focused on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Mr. President,

We reiterate our call for Israel to freeze its settlement activity and construction of separation wall, and to dismantle them.

Israel's practice of "administrative detention" in which thousands of Palestinians are detained for prolonged periods without prosecution or access to justice is a blatant violation of

international law. The Maldives also calls on Israel for immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees without delay.

Mr. President,

The Maldives reaffirms its position that without a Palestinian State, there can never be Palestinian rights. Over the decades, the Maldives supported Palestinian's right to self-determination, and renew its call for a Palestinian State, on the basis of 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

In conclusion, let there be no doubt that the Maldives will lend its unconditional support for Palestine's bid for membership in any other international organization. Our support for the cause of Palestine and brotherly relations between the peoples of Palestine and the Maldives which had lasted for decades, had never been stronger, as evidenced by President Waheed's visit to Palestine just last week and President Mahmoud Abbas's visit to Maldives in April 2012.

I thank you.

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