

**Statement by H.E. Ms. Iruthisham Adam**  
**Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Maldives**  
**Special Session on the Human Rights Situation in Syria**

Thank you Mr President,

One of the most fundamental human rights is the right to peaceful assembly and free association. This human right is a cornerstone that, coupled with the right to freedom of expression, forms a platform that all other universal human rights are founded upon.

The bedrock of the 'Muslim Awakening' that has been seen vividly across the Arab world is being driven by popular protests. A central tenet of this reawakening is the debunking of a fallacy; that human rights values and principles are incompatible with Islam. On the contrary, they are mutually complementary and reinforcing.

The many protests that have sprung up across the Muslim world in recent months indicates that the people in these societies are eager for reform; reform that provides them with a greater voice in their country's future. These are values and aspirations the people of Maldives, fought for and attained only a number of years ago.

Mr. President,

Building on this sentiment, the Maldives is deeply concerned at ongoing human rights violations against the political protesters and call on the Government of Syria to immediate put at end to these violations. The Maldives has also repeatedly called on the Syrian Government to enter into

meaningful, transparent and inclusive dialogue as a way of ending violence and of strengthening human rights and freedoms in the country. In this regard, the Maldives calls on Syria to respect international human rights law and to guarantee access to human rights and humanitarian organisations. The Maldives also encourages Syria to enact comprehensive institutional reform at the domestic level.

Simultaneously, the Maldives calls on the international community to engage with the Government of Syria and afford it all necessary assistance.

Thank you, Mr President.