





# تاریخ و دستورات

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 ناسیونل ایئر لائنز  
 دستورات



دستور رقم ۲  
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• 26 ژوئن 2021 کی تاریخ کے بارے میں 17 جون کو منعقد کیے گئے کانفرنس کے نتیجے میں

مقررہ تاریخوں پر سرکاری ملازمین کو سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے ایک فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔  
اس فیصلے کے تحت سرکاری ملازمین کو سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے ایک فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔

1. ہر سال کے سہولیات کے بارے میں فیصلہ کرنے کے لیے ایک کمیٹی تشکیل دی جائے گی، جس کے سربراہ ہونے والے سرکاری ملازمین کو سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے ایک فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔

2. سرکاری ملازمین کو سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے ایک کمیٹی تشکیل دی جائے گی، جس کے سربراہ ہونے والے سرکاری ملازمین کو سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے ایک فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔

3. ان کے بارے میں فیصلہ کرنے کے لیے ایک کمیٹی تشکیل دی جائے گی، جس کے سربراہ ہونے والے سرکاری ملازمین کو سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے ایک فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔

4. ہر سال کے سہولیات کے بارے میں فیصلہ کرنے کے لیے ایک کمیٹی تشکیل دی جائے گی، جس کے سربراہ ہونے والے سرکاری ملازمین کو سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے ایک فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔

5. سرکاری ملازمین کو سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے ایک کمیٹی تشکیل دی جائے گی، جس کے سربراہ ہونے والے سرکاری ملازمین کو سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے ایک فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔

6. ان کے بارے میں فیصلہ کرنے کے لیے ایک کمیٹی تشکیل دی جائے گی، جس کے سربراہ ہونے والے سرکاری ملازمین کو سہولیات فراہم کرنے کے لیے ایک فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے۔









## 6. جے ڈی آر

1. ڈیپارٹمنٹ ٹریسنگ ڈیویژن کے ایجنٹوں کی طرف سے ایجنٹوں کے ناموں کی فہرستیں فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔  
جو جے ڈی آر "1-جے ڈی آر" کے تحت فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔
2. ڈیپارٹمنٹ ٹریسنگ ڈیویژن کے ایجنٹوں کی طرف سے ایجنٹوں کے ناموں کی فہرستیں فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔  
جو جے ڈی آر "2-جے ڈی آر" کے تحت فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔
3. ڈیپارٹمنٹ ٹریسنگ ڈیویژن کے ایجنٹوں کی طرف سے ایجنٹوں کے ناموں کی فہرستیں فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔  
جو جے ڈی آر "3-جے ڈی آر" کے تحت فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔

07 جے ڈی آر 2021

ڈیپارٹمنٹ ٹریسنگ ڈیویژن کے ایجنٹوں کے ناموں کی فہرستیں فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔  
جو جے ڈی آر کے تحت فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔













جمهوری اسلامی ایران، قوه قضائیه، دیوان عالی کشور (مخبر) و سوابق کیفری و کیفرات و مجازاتهای اعمال شده در پرونده

شماره پرونده: ... در دادگاه کیفری ... در تاریخ ...

در صورتی:

در صورتی که متهم در دادگاه کیفری ... در تاریخ ...

در صورتی که متهم در دادگاه کیفری ... در تاریخ ...

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در صورتی که متهم در دادگاه کیفری ... در تاریخ ...

01 دی ماه 2020

رئیس شعبه ...  
سازمان ...  
(معاونت ...)



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



ދިވެހިސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓް ގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ގޮތުގައި  
މިއަހަރުގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ބަޔާން

ސަރުކާރުގެ ނަންބަރު: 25-A2/57/2020/64

މިއަހަރުގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ބަޔާން، ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓްގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ގޮތުގައި  
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މިއަހަރުގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ބަޔާން، 57-F/GK/25/2020/47 (27 ޖުލައި 2020) ސަރުކާރުގެ  
ރަވާލެވިފައިވާ ބަޔާން.

މިއަހަރުގެ ސަރުކާރުގެ ބަޔާން، ސަރުކާރުގެ ގެޒެޓްގައި ބަޔާންކުރި ގޮތުގައި  
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18 ޖުލައި 2020

05 ޖުލައި 2020

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މިއަހަރުގެ ބަޔާން

# **Support Extended by the Government of Maldives to Palestine**

## **1. Bilateral Meetings and Visits**

### **a) Visit by H.E. Dr. Riad Malki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine to attend the Inauguration of President Solih, November 2018**

1. Meeting with H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives :  
Expressed concern on the recent developments in Gaza and Al Quds city especially on the serious aggression against Al Aqsa Mosque.

Expressed that the Maldives would continue to use its presence in all international organisations, including the UN Human Rights Council, to advocate the cause of Palestine, and shall continue to keep reminding the international community of their obligation to promote and protect the full enjoyment of fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

2. Meeting with H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on 17 November 2018.

### **b) Official Visit of H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Al Habbash (Minister) President's Advisor for Religious Affairs & Islamic Relations, Supreme Judge of Shareia Courts (Chief Justice) of the State of Palestine as Special Envoy of the President of the State of Palestine, 01 – 05 October 2019**

1. Meeting with H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives, on 2 October 2019:

Reaffirmed that the Maldives is a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause and assigns tremendous importance to the success of the efforts of Palestine to gain formal UN-recognition for its statehood.

Underscored that the Maldives would continue to use its presence in all international organisations, including the UN Human Rights Council, to advocate the cause of Palestine, and shall continue to keep reminding the international community of their obligation to promote and protect the full enjoyment of fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

President recalled that he reminded the UN Member States of their collective failure to resolve the issue of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and affirmed the Maldives' longstanding sympathy and unwavering support towards the Palestinian people, during his recent address in UNGA.

2. Meeting with H.E. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on 2 October 2019:

Minister noted that the Maldives is a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause and assigns tremendous importance to the success of the efforts of Palestine to gain formal UN-recognition for its statehood. In this regard, he noted that the Maldives supported the Palestinian bid for the recognition of the State of Palestine at the UN Head Quarters in New York and will continue to do so.



Reaffirmed that the Maldivian Government would continue to use its presence in all international organisations, including the UN Human Rights Council, to advocate the cause of Palestine, and shall continue to keep reminding the international community of their obligation to promote and protect the full enjoyment of fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

3. Luncheon hosted by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the honour of the Special Envoy, Kurumba Island Resort, 2 October 2019

Minister Shahid reiterated the firm support of the Maldivian Government to the Palestinian cause and its bid for the recognition of the State of Palestine at the UN Head Quarters in New York.

(Annex I)

## **2. Conferences & Meetings**

1. **46<sup>th</sup> Session of the the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 1 to 2 March 2019**

- Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Attended by:
  - H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - H.E. Mr. Abdulla Humayd, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - Mr. Amin Javed Faizal, Additional Secretary
  - Mr. Miuvaan Mohamed, Communications Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2. **Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting in preparation for the OIC Makkah Summit, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 29 May 2019**

- Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Attended by:
  - H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - H.E. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, Foreign Secretary
  - Mr. Ahmed Salman Zaki, Assistant Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Ms. Shafagath Shaheed, Third Secretary at the Embassy of Maldives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

3. **Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting for the 14th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia , 30 May 2019**

- Attended by:
  - H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - H.E. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, Foreign Secretary
  - Mr. Ahmed Salman Zaki, Assistant Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Ms. Shafagath Shaheed, Third Secretary at the Embassy of Maldives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

4. **Open-Ended Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Ministers on the Israeli violations of the occupied City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif , Jeddah, Saudi Arabia ,17 July 2019**
  - Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Khaleel, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
  - Attended by:
    - H.E. Mr. Ahmed Khaleel, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
    - H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khaleel, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Maldives to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
    - Officials from both the Maldives Embassy in Riyadh and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
  
5. **Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers to discuss “The announcement by Israeli Prime Minister of his intention to annex territories in the occupied West Bank in the event of winning the Israeli elections”, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia ,15 September 2019**
  - Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
  - Attended by:
    - H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
    - H.E. Mr. Ahmed Khaleel, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
  
6. **Preparatory Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Baku, Azerbaijan, 21 to 22 October 2019**
  - Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, Foreign Secretary of the Republic of Maldives.
  - Attended by:
    - H.E. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, Foreign Secretary of the Republic of Maldives
  
7. **XVIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM), Baku, Azerbaijan, 26 October 2019**
  - Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - Attended by:
    - H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs
    - H.E. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, Foreign Secretary,
    - H.E. Mr. Ahmed Mahir, Ambassador-at-Large,
    - Mr. Amin Javed Faizal, Additional Secretary
  
8. **Open-Ended Virtual Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Ministers to discuss the Israeli Government’s Plans to annex parts of the State of Palestine’s Territory occupied in 1967, 10 June 2020**
  - Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
  - Attended by:
    - H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs

9. **Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference Entitled “ A Strong UNRWA in a Challenging World: Mobilising Collective Action”, 23 June 2020**

- Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- Attended by:  
H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs

(Annex II)

### **3. Statements and Interventions**

#### **a) General**

1. Statement by the Government of Maldives on the *attacks carried out in Gaza*, on 14 November 2019.
2. Message by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives, on the *occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*, 29 November 2019.
3. Statement by the Maldives at the UN Security Council Open Debate on the *Situation in the Middle East, Including the Question of Palestine*, 23 April 2020.
4. Statement by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives, at the *Palestinian demonstration and protest against the Israeli annexation plan organized by the Government of Palestine*, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

#### **b) 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly**

1. Statement delivered by Ms. Aishath Fareena, Second Secretary, under *Agenda Item 39: Question of Palestine* during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting on 29 November 2018.
2. Statement delivered by Ms. Fathimath Nuzha, Second Secretary, under *Agenda Item 38: The Situation in the Middle East*, on 30 November 2018.
3. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Permanent Representative, at the Quarterly Open Debate on *The Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine*, on 22 January 2019.
4. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Permanent Representative, at the Quarterly Open Debate on *The Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine*, on 29 April 2019.
5. Statement delivered by H.E. Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative at the Quarterly Open Debate on *The Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine*, on 23 July 2019.
6. Statement delivered by Ms Farzana Zahir, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Open Debate on *Children and Armed Conflict* on 2 August 2019. (Paragraph 5)

**c) 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly**

1. Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Rep. of Maldives, during the *General Debate of the High Level Segment*, on 24 September 2019. (Paragraphs 19 to 22)
2. Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the *Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers* held at the side-lines of the UNGA, on 27 September 2019. (Paragraph 5).
3. Statement delivered by Mr. Ahmed Salman Zaki, First Secretary, under *Agenda Item 60: Permanent Sovereignty of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the Occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources*, on 22 October 2019.
4. Intervention delivered by Ms. Ms. Aishath Fareena, Second Secretary, on the *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967*, on 23 October 2019.
5. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Asim Ahmed, Ambassador-at-large, at the UNSC Open Debate on the *Situation in the Middle East, including the Questions of Palestine*, on 28 October 2019.
6. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Asim Ahmed, Ambassador-at-large, under *Agenda Item 69: the Report of the Human Rights Council*, on 1 November 2019.
7. Statement by H.E. Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative, at the Plenary on the *Question of Palestine*, on 3 December 2019.
8. Statement delivered by Ms. Aishath Fareena, Second Secretary, at the Plenary on the *Situation of Middle East*, on 3 December 2019. (Paragraphs 3, 4, 6 and 11)
9. Statement delivered by Ms. Fathimath Najwa, Minister at the Permanent Mission, on the *United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)*, on 11 November 2019.
10. Statement delivered by H.E. Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative, on the *Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories*, on 13 November 2019.

**d) 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

1. Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the *High Level Segment*, on 25 February 2019. (Paragraph 16)
2. Joint Statement delivered by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the *Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 Protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territories* under Agenda Item 7, on 18 March 2019.
3. Joint Statement delivered by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the General Debate under *Agenda Item 7 on Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories*, 18 March 2019.
4. Joint Statement delivered by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the *Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967* under Agenda Item 7, on 18 March 2019.
5. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative, at the *Interactive Dialogue on with the Special Rapporteur and Independent*

*International Commission of Inquiry on Occupied Palestinian Territories*, on 18 March 2019.

6. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative, during the *General Debate Item 7*, on 18 March 2019.

e) **41st Session of the Human Rights Council**

1. Joint Statement delivered by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) during the General Debate under *Agenda Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories*, on 8 July 2019.
2. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative, during the *General Debate Item 7*, on 8 July 2019.

f) **42nd Session of the Human Rights Council**

1. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative, during the *General Debate Item 7*, on 23 September 2019.

g) **43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

1. Statement delivered Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the *High Level Segment*, on 25 February 2020. (Paragraph 11)
2. Joint Statement delivered by Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) during General Debate under *Agenda Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories*, on 16 March 2020.
3. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative, during the *General Debate Item 7*, on 15 June 2020.

h) **44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

1. Joint Statement by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the Interactive dialogue with *the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967* under Agenda Item 7, on 16 June 2020.
2. Statement Delivered by Ms. Shahiya Ali Manik, First Secretary, at the Interactive Dialogue with *the Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territories*, on 16 July 2020.

(Annex III)

## 4. Resolutions

### a) 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly

1. UNGA Resolution “38 Jerusalem” (A/73/L.29) considered under Agenda Item 38: The Situation in the Middle East.

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Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
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GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 30 November 2018; [In favour 148, against 10, abstentions 66]
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Summary: The Resolution recognizes that any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem are illegal and therefore null and void and have no validity whatsoever. Thus, the Resolution calls upon Israel to immediately cease all such illegal and unilateral measures and reaffirms the importance of the City of Jerusalem for the three monotheistic religions. The Resolution specifically calls for respect for the historic status quo at the holy places of Jerusalem, including the Haram al Sharif, in word and practice, and urges all sides to work immediately and cooperatively to defuse tensions and halt all provocations, incitement and violence at the holy sites in the City.

2. UNGA Resolution “38 Activities of Hamas and Other Militant Groups in Gaza” (A/73/L.42) considered under Agenda Item 38: The Situation in the Middle East.

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Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
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GA decision:	Rejected by recorded vote on 6 December 2018; [In favour 87, against 75, abstentions 33]: This required a two-thirds majority
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Summary: This is a new Resolution introduced by the United States during this session, to condemn Hamas for repeatedly firing rockets into Israel and for inciting violence, thereby putting civilians at risk. This resolution also demands that Hamas and other militant actors, including Palestinian Islamic Jihad, cease all provocative actions and violent activity, including by using airborne incendiary devices. This resolution calls for full respect by all parties for international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including in regard to the protection of the civilian population and for the cessation of all forms of violence and intimidation directed against medical and humanitarian personnel, and reiterates the importance of respecting the inviolability and neutrality of United Nations premises. Bolivia tabled an amendment to the aforementioned Resolution, to insert a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 7.

3. UNGA Resolution “38 Comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East” (A/73/L.49) considered under Agenda Item 38: The Situation in the Middle East.

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Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
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GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 6 December 2018; [In favour 156, against 6, abstentions 12]
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Summary: This is a new Resolution tabled by Ireland, in opposition to the Resolution tabled by the United States under the same Agenda Item. The Resolution reiterates its call for the achievement, without delay, of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, including of East Jerusalem, and reaffirms, in this regard, its unwavering support, in accordance with international law, for the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders.

4. UNGA Resolution “39 Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People” (A/73/L.31) considered under Agenda Item 39: Question of Palestine.

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Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
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GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 30 November 2018; [In favour 100, against 12, abstentions 62]
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Summary: The Resolution requests the UN to exert efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. It also supports the achievement of an end to the Israeli occupation from 1967, and of the two-State solution. This also extends international solidarity and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations.

5. UNGA Resolution “39 Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine” (A/73/L.32) considered under Agenda Item 39: Question of Palestine.

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Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
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GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 30 November 2018; [In favour 156, against 8, abstentions 12]
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Summary: The Resolution encouraged all states and international organizations to comply with international law. It also calls to coordinate efforts aimed at restoring a political horizon and advancing the conclusion of a peace treaty to end Israeli occupation, and to re-establish peace in the Middle East strengthen institutions to develop infrastructures in Palestine.

6. UNGA Resolution “39 Special information program on the question of Palestine by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat” (A/73/L.33) considered under Agenda Item 39: Question of Palestine.

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Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
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GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 30 November 2018; [In favour 152, against 8, abstentions 14]
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Summary: The Resolution reaffirms that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international legitimacy. It also disseminates information on all activities of the UN relating to the question of Palestine and peace efforts, including reports on the work carried out by relevant UN organizations

7. UNGA Resolution “39 Division for Palestinian Rights in the Secretariat” (A/73/L.34) considered under Agenda Item 39: Question of Palestine.

Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 30 November 2018; [In favour 96, against 13, abstentions 64]

Summary: The Resolution supports the Committee’s mandate to develop and enhance the annual training programme for staff of the Palestinian Government in contribution to Palestinian capacity-building efforts. The Resolution reaffirms that the United Nations has a permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international legitimacy. It also disseminates information on all activities of the UN relating to the question of Palestine and peace efforts, including reports on the work carried out by relevant UN organizations

8. UNGA Resolution “75(b) Assistance to the Palestine people” (A/73/L.69) considered under Agenda Item 39: Question of Palestine.

Maldives decision:	Joined consensus
GA decision:	Adopted without a vote on 20 December 2018.

Summary: The Resolution expresses grave concern at the difficult living conditions and humanitarian situation affecting the Palestinian people, in particular women and children, throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in the Gaza strip. It also stresses on the urgency of reaching a durable solution to the crisis in Gaza and calls upon donors, relevant agencies of the UN to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of Palestinian people in accordance with priorities set forth by the Palestinian side.

9. UNGA Resolution “125 Chair of Group of 77 for 2019” (A/73/L.5) considered under Agenda Item 39: Question of Palestine.

Maldives decision:	Co- sponsored and voted in favour
GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 16 October 2018; [In favour 146, against 3, abstentions 15]

Summary: This resolution provided additional rights and privileges of participation to the State of Palestine when it assumes its position as chair of the “Group of 77” developing States and China for the year of 2019.

10. UNGA Resolution “64. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources” (A/C.2/73/L.37) considered at the Second Committee.

Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
Committee decision:	Adopted with a recorded vote on 8 November 2018 [In favour 149, against 6, abstentions 12]
GA decision	Adopted with a recorded vote on 20 December 2018 [In favour 159, against 7, abstentions 13]

Summary: This annual resolution addresses the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights over their natural resources, and the implications for people living in the occupied territories. It calls upon Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian territories and details the cost of the occupation in social and economic terms, derived from the SG’s report on the item. It also reaffirms the Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), that does not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations

11. UNGA Resolution “73. The right of the Palestinian People to Self-Determination” (A/RES/73/L.29) considered under the Agenda Item 73: Rights of People to Self-Determination.

Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
Committee decision:	Adopted by vote on 15 November 2018; [In favour 169, against 6, abstentions 12]
GA decision:	Adopted by vote on 17 December 2018; [In favour 172, against 6, abstentions 11]

Summary: This Resolution acknowledges the importance of Palestine’s struggle for autonomy. It addresses the need of Palestine to be liberated from Israeli occupation and calls for a permanent two-State solution based on pre-1967 borders.

12. UNGA Resolution “54. Assistance to Palestine Refugees” (A/C.4/73/L.14) considered under Agenda Item 54: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

Maldives decision:	Voted in favour.
Committee decision:	Adopted by recorded vote, 16 November 2018; [In favour 161; against 2, abstentions 8]

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GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote, 7 December 2018; [In favour 163; against 2, abstentions 13]
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Summary: It is an annual Resolution, which was initially conceptualized within the Resolution 194 (111) of 1 December 1948, that defined principles for reaching a final settlement and returning Palestinian refugees to home. The Resolution recognising the socio-economic situation of the Palestine refugees under occupation, stresses the urgent need of emergency and humanitarian assistance and reconstruction efforts.

13. UNGA Resolution “54. Persons Displaced As A Result of the June 1967 And Subsequent Hostilities” (A/C.4/73/L.15) considered under Agenda Item 54: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

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Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour.
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Committee decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 16 November 2018; [In favour 155; against 5, abstentions 10]
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GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 7 December 2018; [In favour 155; against 6, abstentions 13]
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Summary: The Resolution highlights the human suffering as a result of displaced population of Palestine from the occupied territories of Israel since 1967. It reaffirms the rights of all persons displaced and subsequent hostilities to be ended and let the Palestinians return to their places. It also stresses the need for an accelerated return of the displaced persons in compliance with the established mechanism and appeals to all relevant authorities to contribute the Agency in this course.

14. UNGA Resolution “54. Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East” (A/C.4/73/L.16) considered under Agenda Item 54: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

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Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour
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Committee decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 16 November 2018; [In favour 158; against 5, abstentions 7]
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GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 7 December 2018; [In favour 159; against 5, abstentions 12]
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Summary: This Resolution recalling on UNRWA’s mandate encourages mobilisation of donors in response to continue with its programme. The Resolution acknowledges the steadfast support of all other donors and despite its proven operational capabilities raises deep disregard and concerns about the attempts to stereotyping with negative image.

15. UNGA Resolution “54. Palestine Refugees Properties and Their Revenues” (A/C.4/73/L.17) considered under Agenda Item 54: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

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Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour
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Committee decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 16 November 2018; [In favour 155; against 5, abstentions 10]
GA decision:	Adopted by recorded on 7 December 2018; [In favour 156; against 6, abstentions 14]

Summary: The Resolution reaffirmed the right of Palestine refugees to the property and to the income derived therefrom in conformity with the principles of equity and justice. The text also requests the SG to take all appropriate steps for the protection of Arab property, assets, and property in Israel. The call on Israel to render support to SG pertaining to the acute information on the properties inside Israel is once again reiterated and urges both sides to deal matters relating to the properties under the framework of final-status peace negotiations.

16. UNGA Resolution “55. Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories” (A/C.4/73/L.18) considered under Agenda Item 55: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour.
Committee decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 16 November 2018; [In favour 77; against 8, abstentions 79]
GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 7 December 2018; [In favour 78; against 10, abstentions 84]

Summary: This annual Resolution, presented to the Committee focuses on the procedures and the conduct of the Special Committee formed to investigate Israeli practices, particularly human rights violation and humanitarian issues in the Occupied Palestine Territory.

17. UNGA Resolution “55. Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories” (A/C.4/73/L.19) considered under Agenda Item 55: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour.
Committee decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 16 November 2018; [In favour 154; against 5, abstentions 8]
GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 7 December 2018; [In favour 158; against 6, abstentions 14]

Summary: This Resolution is presented annually to the Fourth Committee, with technical updates demanding Israel to accept the *de jure* applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestine Territory and that it comply with the provision of the Convention. It

reaffirmed that the Geneva Convention is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

18. UNGA Resolution “55. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan” (A/C.4/73/L.20) considered under Agenda Item 55: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour
Committee decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 16 November 2018; [In favour 153; against 5, abstentions 10]
GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 7 December 2018; [In favour 154; against 6, abstentions 15]

Summary: This Resolution demands Israel to cease all settlement activity in the Occupied Palestine territory and requests UN Secretary General to report to the General Assembly in its next session on the implementation of the Resolution. It further reaffirmed that Israeli practices in the Occupied Territories including the East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace, economic, and social development.

19. UNGA Resolution “55. Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem” (A/C.4/73/L.21) considered under Agenda Item 55: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour.
Committee decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 16 November 2018; [In favour 153; against 6, abstentions 9]
GA decision:	Adopted by recorded vote on 7 December 2018; [In favour 152; against 8, abstentions 13]

Summary: This Resolution demanded that Israel to cease all measures and actions violating international laws, discriminatory legislations, and the human rights of the Palestinian people, including the killing and injury of civilians, the arbitrary detention and imprisonment of civilians, forced displacement, and any obstruction of humanitarian assistance.

**b) 74<sup>th</sup> Session of UN General Assembly**

1. UNGA Resolution “35. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People” (A/74/L.14) considered under Agenda Item 35: Question of Palestine.

Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
GA decision:	Adopted by a vote on 3 December 2019;

Summary: The Resolution recognises and notes the role the Committee plays in promoting the rights of the Palestinian people. The Resolution further calls on Israeli and Palestinian stakeholders to increase cooperation and fully implement relevant agreements and resolutions on the Question of Palestine.

2. UNGA Resolution “35. Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine” (A/74/L.15) considered under Agenda Item 35: Question of Palestine.

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Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
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GA decision:	Adopted by a vote on 3 December 2019; [In Favour 147, Against 7, Abstentions 13]
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Summary: The Resolution reaffirms the responsibility of the UN on the question of Palestine to be resolved in accordance with international law and relevant resolutions. The Resolution also reaffirms all relevant UNGA and UNSC resolutions pertaining to illegal Israeli occupation, and reaffirms the importance of safety and protection of all civilians in Palestine and the Middle East.

3. UNGA Resolution “35. Division for Palestinian Rights in the Secretariat” (A/74/L.16) considered under Agenda Item 35: Question of Palestine.

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Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
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GA decision:	Adopted by a vote on 3 December 2019; [In Favour 87, Against 23, Abstentions 54]
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Summary: The Resolution recognises and notes the role the Division for Palestinian Rights plays in monitoring developments and coordinating international meetings in line with its mandate relevant to the Question of Palestine. The Resolution also calls for the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people to include an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Observer Mission of Palestine to the UN.

4. UNGA Resolution “35. Special information program on the question of Palestine by the United Nations Department of Global Communications” (A/74/L.17) considered under Agenda Item 35: Question of Palestine.

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Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
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GA decision:	Adopted by a vote on 3 December 2019; [In Favour 144, Against 8, Abstentions 14]
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Summary: The Resolution recognises the existing agreements between the Israel and the State of Palestine, and reaffirms its support to a permanent two-state solution. The Resolution requests the Department to continue its special information program to disseminate information on all activities of the UN system, issue and update materials on

various aspects of the Question of Palestine, expand its collection of audio-visual material, and organise new fact-finding missions for journalists in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Resolution also calls for the arrangement of training in the field of media development in the region.

5. UNGA Resolution “60. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources” (A/C.2/74/L.45) considered under Agenda Item 60: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resource.

Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
Committee decision:	Adopted by a vote on 14 November 2019; [In Favour 156, Against 6, Abstentions 14]
GA decision:	Adopted by a vote on 19 December 2019; [In Favour 160, Against 6, Abstentions 15]

Summary: This annual Resolution addresses the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights over their natural resources, and the implications for people living in the occupied territories. It calls upon Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian territories and details the cost of the occupation in social and economic terms, derived from the Secretary-General’s report on the item. It also reaffirms the Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), that does not recognise any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations.

6. UNGA Resolution “69. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination” (A/RES/74/L.58) considered at the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

Maldives decision:	Voted in favour
Committee decision:	Adopted by a vote on 19 November 2019; [In Favour 164, Against 5, Abstentions 9]
GA decision:	Adopted by a vote on 18 December 2019; [In Favour 167, Against 5, Abstentions 11]

Summary: The Resolution acknowledges the State of Palestine’s struggle for autonomy, and the need to liberate itself from Israeli occupation. The Resolution reaffirmed the call for a permanent two-state solution, based on the pre-1967 borders. The Resolution reminded states to apply international law as well as international humanitarian law in the case of Palestine and called for the alleviation of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

7. UNGA Resolution “50. Assistance to Palestine Refugees (A/C.4/74/L.10)” considered under Agenda Item 50: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour
Committee decision:	Adopted by a vote, 15 November 2019; [In Favour 170, Against 2, Abstentions 7]
GA decision:	Adopted by a vote, 13 December 2019; [In Favour 169, Against 2, Abstentions 9]

Summary: This is an annual resolution, which was initially conceptualised within GA resolution 194 (111) of 1 December 1948, which defines principles for reaching a final settlement and returning Palestinian refugees back to their home. By the terms of the Resolution, the GA decided to extend UNRWA’s mandate until 30 June 2023, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III). Further, it expresses concern regarding the negative implications of the Agency’s severe financial crisis for continued delivery of its core programmes. It also expresses grave concerns about the difficult situation of Palestine refugees under occupation, and underlines the importance of assistance as well as the urgent need for reconstruction. In this regard, the GA calls upon all donors to continue strengthening their efforts to meet UNRWA’s anticipated needs, including for recent emergency, recovery and reconstruction appeals, plans for the Gaza Strip, and regional crisis-response plans to address the situation of Palestine refugees in Syria.

- UNGA Resolution “50. Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East” (A/C.4/74/L.12) considered under Agenda Item 50: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour.
Committee decision:	Adopted by a vote on 15 November 2019; [In Favour 167, Against 5, Abstentions 7]
GA decision:	Adopted by a vote on 13 December 2019; [In Favour 167, Against 6, Abstentions 7]

Summary: This is an annual resolution, which focuses on UNRWA’s mandate and extends appreciation for the work of the Agency. It notes that contributions have not been predictable enough or sufficient to meet growing needs, and remedy the persistent shortfalls in funds which have been exacerbated in 2018. Subsequently, by the suspension of the single largest voluntary contribution to the Agency, the Agency’s operations and efforts to promote human development and meet Palestine refugees’ basic needs are being undermined. Hence, it stresses the need for further efforts to comprehensively address the recurrent funding shortfalls affecting the Agency’s operations. It also welcomes the establishment by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in March 2019, of a Waqf fund at the Islamic Development Bank, to support Palestine refugees through enhanced support to the Agency.

- UNGA Resolution “50. Palestine refugees’ properties and their revenues” (A/C.4/74/L.13) considered under Agenda Item 50: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour
Committee decision:	Adopted by a vote on 15 November 2019; [In Favour 162, Against 6, Abstentions 9]
GA decision:	Adopted by a vote on 13 December 2019; [In Favour 163, Against 6, Abstentions 12]

Summary: The Resolution reaffirmed the right of Palestine refugees to the property and to the income derived therefrom in conformity with the principles of equity and justice. The text also requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps for the protection of Arab property and assets in Israel. The call on Israel to render support to the SG, pertaining to the acute information on the properties inside Israel, is once again reiterated, and urges both sides to address matters relating to the properties under the framework of final-status peace negotiations.

10. UNGA Resolution “51. Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories” (A/C.4/74/L.14) considered at Agenda Item 51: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour
Committee decision:	Adopted by a vote on 15 November 2019; [In Favour 82, Against 11, Abstentions 78]
GA decision:	Adopted by a vote on 13 December 2019; [In Favour 81, Against 13, Abstentions 80]

Summary: This is an annual resolution which focuses on the procedures and the conduct of the Special Committee formed to investigate Israeli practices, particularly human rights violation and humanitarian issues, in the Occupied Palestine Territory. It also requests that the Secretary-General provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Moreover, it requests that the Secretary General continue to task the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with assisting the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks.

11. UNGA Resolution “51. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan” (A/C.4/74/L.15) considered at Agenda Item 51: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour
Committee decision:	Adopted by a vote on 15 November 2019; [In Favour 156, Against 6, Abstentions 15]

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GA decision:	Adopted by a vote on 13 December 2019; [In Favour 157, Against 7, Abstentions 15]
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Summary: This is an annual resolution which demands Israel to cease all settlement activity in the Occupied Palestine Territory, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly in its next session on the implementation of the Resolution. It further reaffirmed that Israeli practices in the Occupied Territories, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, are illegal and an obstacle to peace, economic, and social development. This year's text is a streamlined text which has merged important points from the traditional resolution - "Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories", whereby eliminating the latter resolution.

12. UNGA Resolution "51. Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem" (A/C.4/74/L.16) considered at Agenda Item 51: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

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Maldives decision:	Co-sponsored and voted in favour.
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Committee decision:	Adopted by a vote on 15 November 2019; [In Favour 154, Against 8, Abstentions 14]
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GA decision:	Adopted by a vote on 13 December 2019; [In Favour 157, Against 9, Abstentions 13]
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Summary: This Resolution demanded that Israel cease all measures and actions violating international law, discriminatory legislations, and the human rights of the Palestinian people, including the killing and injury of civilians, the arbitrary detention and imprisonment of civilians, forced displacement, and any obstruction of humanitarian assistance.

c) **40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

1. HRC Resolution "Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem" (A/HRC/40/L.25) considered under Agenda Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.

*Maldives co-sponsored this resolution.*

2. HRC Resolution "Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem" (A/HRC/40/L.27) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.

*Maldives co-sponsored this resolution.*

3. HRC Resolution “Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan” (A/HRC/40/L.28) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.

*Maldives co-sponsored this resolution.*

4. HRC Resolution “Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination”(A/HRC/40/L.26) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.

*Maldives co-sponsored this resolution.*

**d) 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of Human Rights Council**

1. HRC Resolution “Right of the Palestinian People to Self Determination” (A/HRC/43/L.39) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.

*Maldives co-Sponsored the resolution.*

2. HRC Resolution “Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, and in the Occupied Syrian Golan” (A/HRC/43/L.37/Rev.1) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.

*Maldives co-Sponsored the resolution.*

3. HRC Resolution “Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem” (A/HRC/43/L.38/Rev.1) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.

*Maldives co-sponsored the resolution.*

4. HRC Resolution “Ensuring Accountability and Justice for all Violations of International law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem” (A/HRC/43/L.36/Rev.1) considered under Agenda Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.

*Maldives co-sponsored this resolution.*

(Annex IV)

## **Annex I: Bilateral Meetings and Visits**

### **1. Visit by His Excellency Dr. Riad Malki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine to attend the Inauguration of President Solih, November 2018**

**Tweet:** (<https://twitter.com/mofamv/status/1063884093752922112>)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Flag of Maldives

@MoFAMv

Nov 18, 2018

H.E. Dr. Riad Malki, Foreign Minister of #Palestine, pays a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister of #Maldives H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid. Reaffirmed that Maldives will always support the Palestinian cause.

**Press Release** (<https://foreign.gov.mv/index.php/en/mediacentre/news/4681-foreign-minister-of-palestine-calls-on-foreign-minister-shahid>)

Foreign Minister of Palestine calls on Foreign Minister Shahid

Created: 17 November 2018

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine, His Excellency Dr. Riad Malki, paid a courtesy call on the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid.

During the Meeting held at Kurumba Maldives, Minister Shahid extended a warm welcome and expressed gratitude to Minister Malki for visiting Maldives to witness the Presidential Inauguration. Minister Malki congratulated Minister Shahid on his appointment as the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Both Ministers exchanged ideas in enhancing cooperation between both countries and reflected on ways for strengthening the existing ties. Minister Shahid also reaffirmed that the people and the Government of Maldives will continue to standby the people of Palestine and support the Palestinian cause.

Foreign Minister Shahid was accompanied by His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel, Secretary, Bilateral, Mr. Abdul Waris Saeed, Director and Ms. Mariyam Bassama Farooq, Assistant Director at the Ministry.

ENDS

### **2. Official Visit of H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Al Habbash (Minister) President's Advisor for Religious Affairs & Islamic Relations, Supreme Judge of Shareia Courts (Chief Justice) of the State of Palestine as Special Envoy of the President of the State of Palestine, 01 – 05 October 2019**

**Tweet:** (<https://twitter.com/presidencymv/status/1178935984144011264>)

The President's Office

@presidencymv

H.E. Dr Mahmoud AlHabash, Special Envoy to the President of the State of #Palestine, arrives in the #Maldives to convey a special letter from the Palestinian President H.E. Mahmoud Abbas to the President of #Maldives H.E. @ibusolih



**Press Release:** (<https://presidency.gov.mv/Press/Article/22317>)

PRESS RELEASE

Special Envoy of Palestinian President meets with President Solih

02 October 2019, Ref: 2019-777

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has met with a Special Envoy of Palestine's President Dr. Mahmoud Abbas, this morning at the President's Office. The Special Envoy, Mahmoud Al Habbash, relayed his warmest greetings on behalf of his President to President Ibrahim Solih and the Government and people of the Maldives.

President Solih in turn warmly received the Special Envoy and asked him to relay his kindest regards to President Abbas, Prime Minister Mohamed Shtayyeh, to the Palestinian National Authority, and to our brothers, the Palestinian people.

The Special Envoy expressed that the Palestinian Government deeply appreciated President Solih's recent Statement at the General Debate of the 74th Annual Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), held in New York, during which he highlighted the ongoing abuses of the Israeli Government against the people of Palestine, and reaffirmed Maldivians' enduring support for Palestinians' aspiration for statehood.

The President's Statement had reiterated the Maldives' Government's long-held belief that peace between the Arab States and Israel can only be achieved through a two-state solution based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem serving as the capital of Palestine.

President Abbas's Special Envoy emphasized that Palestinian statehood is an unalterable precondition for a just and lasting peace in the Levant and for a normalization of relations with Israel. He further updated President Solih on the ongoing settlement activity of Israel in territory meant for a Palestinian State, creating ground realities unamenable to a just and enduring peaceful two state solution.

President Solih repeatedly affirmed that the Maldivian people and Government will always stand behind the Palestinian in their quest for recognition and dignity, and will actively advocate their cause on the international stage.

During the call the Special Envoy had presented President Solih with a letter on behalf of the Palestinian President. Further, the two discussed the possibility of President Solih undertaking a visit to the old city in Jerusalem at an appropriate future date.

**Tweet:** ([https://twitter.com/abdulla\\_shahid/status/1179352729719918592](https://twitter.com/abdulla_shahid/status/1179352729719918592))

Abdulla Shahid

@abdulla\_shahid

Oct 2, 2019



Great pleasure to meet my dear brother, H.E. Dr. Al Habbash, Special Envoy of the President of #Palestine. Assured the unwavering support of Maldives to the Palestinian cause. @Palestine\_UN

**Press Release:** (<https://www.foreign.gov.mv/index.php/en/mediacentre/news/5251-special-envoy-of-the-president-of-palestine-meets-the-minister-of-foreign-affairs>)

Special Envoy of the President of Palestine meets the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Created: 02 October 2019

His Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Al Habbash, Special Envoy of the President of the State of Palestine, His Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Abbas, met with His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, today.

At the meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon, Minister Shahid welcomed the Special Envoy, Dr. Al Habbash to the Maldives on his Official Visit and exchanged views on enhancing cooperation between the Maldives and Palestine.

Minister Shahid reiterated the Maldives' unshakeable commitment to the Palestinian cause and reassured that the Maldives will continue to use its presence in all international organizations to advocate the cause of Palestine. Minister Shahid further reaffirmed that the Government of Maldives will keep reminding the international community of their obligation to promote and protect the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. Special Envoy Dr. Al Habbash expressed gratitude towards the sentiment of close brotherhood which exists between the Maldives and Palestine.

Special Envoy Dr. Al Habbash is currently serving as (Minister) President's Advisor for Religious Affairs and Islamic Relations and Supreme Judge of Sharia Courts (Chief Justice) of the State of Palestine.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs was accompanied by His Excellency Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Shiaan, Additional Secretary and Mr. Abdul Waris Saeed, Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ENDS



## **Annex II: Conferences and Meetings**

### **1. 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 1 to 2 March 2019**

#### **Statement:**

Statement by His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives at the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Created: 03 March 2019

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam Alaikum Warahmathullahi Wabarakaathuh,

Allow me at the outset, to extend to His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, my delegation's sincere congratulations on his assumption of the high office of the Chairmanship of the forty-sixth session of the Council of Ministers.

At a time when our Ummah is facing tremendous challenges, we draw confidence in seeing such a distinguished personality of his caliber at our helm. It is not only a well-deserved tribute to his personal statesmanship, diplomatic skills and experience, but also an added recognition of the prominent role played in world affairs by this great country.

My sincere gratitude to you Mr. Chairman, and the Government of UAE for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting and the warm hospitality extended since our arrival.

Let me also take this opportunity to express the appreciation of my delegation to the distinguished Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, for the exemplary manner in which he discharged his onerous responsibilities during the past session.

I would also like to express our deep appreciation to the Secretary-General and his staff, for his untiring and dedicated efforts to promote the objectives of the Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

The people of Maldives made a historic decision last year, in electing President Solih to the highest office in the country with 58% of the popular vote. With this change of Government, Maldivians have now embarked on a new era of democracy and freedom, epitomized by the notion of “Jazeera Raajje”, or “Island Nation” - to be able to live in dignity, without fear; to further advance the rights of our people, to ensure that they are able to prosper safely and securely in an environment that is free from the ills that continue to plague so many of our societies.

The foundations of our democratic norms are steeped in Islamic tradition - Shura, meaning consultation. It is on the basis of this important principle that the Maldives

has embarked on a process of meaningful consultation and deliberation with the local communities and the constituents under its care.

As a 100 per cent Muslim country, the OIC has always been an important organization for the Government and people of the Maldives. The Maldives will always remain steadfast in its support for this instrumental organization and the questions that are discussed within it. We will work towards strengthening our cooperation in the fields of human rights, commerce, on information exchange and on capacity building. We believe, given the historic and extraordinary nature of this organization, there is much we can learn from one another, for the benefit of our peoples and our countries.

I am pleased to announce that the Maldives will soon open its first diplomatic post in Jeddah, through which we will be able to engage more closely and contribute more constructively to the work of the OIC.

Mr. Chairman,

As we embrace this auspicious occasion of Golden Jubilee of the OIC, let us make a pledge to unite and further strengthen the principles and values that govern this esteemed organization. We wish to make every effort to bring peace and prosperity to the Muslim Ummah in defining our future for the next fifty years. Our faith, our historic and ancient relations and our belief in the principle of consultation is what unites and bring us together.

The Maldives commends the efforts of the OIC to transform and protect the image of Islam and to fight against radical ideologies that go against Islamic teachings. Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance; it must be inscribed to both in scripture, and in practice. However, the Islamic Ummah is being challenged by the growing menace of violent extremism and increasing radicalization. We need to take more concrete steps in countering these negative trends through closer partnerships and cooperation amongst the membership of this august organization.

The Maldives strongly condemns and rejects all acts of terrorism in all forms and manifestations, committed by any terrorist group or individual. We particularly denounce acts of terrorism committed in the name of Islam. Terrorism is a dreadful act which attacks the values of unity, respect and freedom and directly contradicts the values and teachings of Islam. It is a global threat that requires a global solution. The Maldives is fully committed to working closely with its neighbours, and the wider international community, as part of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to combat terrorism.

We must also counter the nefarious Islamophobia that has taken root in so many countries around the world. Hatred, prejudice and intolerance knows no colour, race or nationality. It is a common problem that must be addressed collectively through greater collaborative efforts, through awareness and understanding.

Mr. Chairman,

The Maldives has on several occasions, raised its concerns regarding the plight of our brothers and sisters in Palestine. I have just recently concluded a visit to Geneva, to attend the High Level Segment of the Human Rights Council, where I contended on

behalf of the Maldivian people, that we will always support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The Maldives strongly believes that a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, can only be brought about by adopting the international consensus on a two-state solution, with an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its Capital, living side by side and in peace with its neighbors.

We remain troubled by the escalating humanitarian situation on the ground in both Syria and Yemen, but mostly, on the plight of young women and children caught in the crossfire, who will continue to bear the scars of conflicts for decades to come. This is a situation we must do our utmost to avoid, and to find a solution to alleviate the suffering of innocent civilians.

Additionally, the situation in Myanmar remains of deep concern to the Maldives. We fully condemn the atrocities that have been carried out against the Rohingya people, and the communal violence in Rakhine State.

We strongly urge the Government of Myanmar to provide rapid and unimpeded access to non-governmental organizations and UN agencies, in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian law, and create a conducive environment for the return of these displaced persons to their rightful homes.

Mr. Chairman,

Advancement of women and protection of children are important priorities for the Maldives. It is for this reason that the Maldives Government has initiated the process of acceding to the Statute of the OIC Women's Development Organisation and on the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Advancement of Women. We remain fully committed to ensuring that we fulfill all the requirements to be a State Party to the Statute and to participate meaningfully in the discussions relating to the advancement of women.

As one of the most low-lying States in the world, climate change and global warming pose an existential threat to our small and scattered islands. Many OIC member States are also facing similar environmental threats that endanger their developmental efforts and the full enjoyment of their human rights.

We therefore believe that OIC should and indeed can play a more active and meaningful role in the international debate on environmental issues.

Mr. Chairman,

The Maldives is looking to engage and cooperate with all our partners in this organization and beyond, to further the noble principles of the OIC and wide humanity. The commitment of the Maldives to the OIC, as I have just outlined will be realized fully, and we will commence immediately to contribute to a renewed impetus of re-engagement that will see the Maldives take its obligations with due diligence and seriousness, as a responsible member of the international community.

Thank you Mr. President.

## **2. Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting in preparation for the OIC Makkah Summit, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 30 May 2019**

Tweet:

[https://twitter.com/abdulla\\_shahid/status/1133236141216284672?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1133236141216284672%7Ctwgr%5Eshare\\_3&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Ffraajje.mv%2F56963](https://twitter.com/abdulla_shahid/status/1133236141216284672?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1133236141216284672%7Ctwgr%5Eshare_3&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Ffraajje.mv%2F56963)

Abdulla Shahid

@abdulla\_shahid

Leaving to Saudi Arabia to attend the Foreign Ministers Meeting prior to the 14th session of the Islamic Summit Conference to be held in the holy city of Makkah. A wide range of issues facing the Islamic Ummah will be discussed.

#OICMakkahSummit

### **Statement:**

Statement delivered by His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, at the Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting in preparation for the OIC Makkah Summit

Created: 30 May 2019

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam Alaikum Warahmathullahi Wabarakaathuh,

I would like to begin by extending my sincere gratitude to the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for hosting the 14th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival is a testament to the excellent arrangements made for the meeting and the Summit.

I am confident that under your able leadership, and that of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Ummah is in good hands.

Let me also take this opportunity to wish prosperity, blessings and goodness to our Ummah, and all of mankind, during this Holy Month of Ramadan.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, and the Secretariat of the OIC, for their tireless work and the impeccable manner in which the Secretary General continues to represent the values of the OIC at this critical juncture in Islamic cooperation.

I would like to commend the outgoing Chair, Turkey, for the excellent manner in which they have steered the work of this organisation under their leadership.

Mr. Chairman,

At a time when our Ummah is facing multifaceted threats and challenges, the Maldives views the OIC as one of the most important platforms to discuss all matters which



affect the wider Muslim world. We will strive to highlight and address the most significant issues facing our Ummah, by strengthening cooperation and sharing experiences to find common solutions. Our faith, our historic and friendly relations, and our belief in the principle of *\_Shura\_* is what unites us.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, the people of Gaza faced a deadly start to Ramadan, marked by funerals, debris and anguish. The plight of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination will always remain an international priority for the Maldives. I would like to reaffirm our unwavering support to a resolution involving international consensus on a two-state solution, with an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its Capital, so that our brothers and sisters in Palestine can live with peace, prosperity and dignity.

We also stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who face persecution and suffering in different parts of the world.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is a scourge faced by all nations today. It has no border, no religion and no principles. The only thing it has is pure evil. We need full international cooperation to root out this evil.

We believe that hate speech must be rooted out as well, from public discourse in favour of tolerance, understanding and peaceful co-existence and harmony. The Maldives would support a mechanism which ensures the coordinated efforts of the OIC and the wider international community that contributes to countering the prevalent atmosphere of Islamophobia around the world.

Climate change, Mr. Chairman, is a global phenomenon that requires global cooperation. For us in the Maldives, climate change poses grave risks that could endanger our very survival. The world must recognise the urgency of addressing this imminent threat to humanity.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, the Maldives will always remain committed to being a responsible member of the international community and work closely with our international partners in this organisation to further the noble and peaceful values of Islam. We remain ready to work hand-in-hand with our partners in the OIC to find common solutions to the challenges faced by our Ummah to ensure a prosperous and peaceful world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

### **3. Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting for the 14th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 30 May 2019**

#### **Press Release:**

Foreign Minister Shahid participated in the preparatory Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting for the 14th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference

Created: 30 May 2019

Jeddah

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, participates in the preparatory Foreign Ministers Meeting for the 14th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference. The meeting held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, was attended by Foreign Ministers of Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

During the meeting, the Foreign Ministers agreed to adopt the agenda and work programme of the 14th Islamic Summit Conference. In addition, the Ministers agreed to deliberate on the final communiqué of the summit, the Makkah Declaration, and the Draft Resolution on the Cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Ash Sharif building on from the Senior Officials Meeting in order to be finalised and adopted at the Summit. The Maldives extended its full support to the Makkah Declaration and the resolution on Palestine and called for the adoption by consensus of these two important documents.

In his statement at the Preparatory Meeting for the 14th OIC Summit, Minister Shahid called for significant cooperation and sharing of experiences to find common solutions to challenges and threats faced by the Islamic Ummah. Minister Shahid also said that historic and friendly relations along with the mutual belief in the concept of shura, or consultation, is what unites the Islamic world. With the Palestinian cause being a central issue to the Muslim world, Minister Shahid reaffirmed Maldives' unwavering support to the people of Palestine, their right to self-determination and their right to live with peace, prosperity and dignity. He also called for solidarity with Muslims facing persecution and suffering in different parts of the world. In doing so, Minister Shahid committed Maldives' support to counter the prevalent atmosphere of Islamophobia around the world. Minister Shahid also called on world leaders to recognise the urgency of addressing climate change, a grave threat that could endanger Maldives' very existence.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Minister Shahid held separate meetings with a number of bilateral partners. These included the foreign ministers of Bangladesh, Jordan, Indonesia, Brunei and Egypt with whom Minister Shahid reviewed relations with their respective countries and discussed matters of mutual interest, including ways of further enhancing bilateral cooperation. Minister Shahid also met with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and discussed increased development assistance and further strengthening ties.

The 14th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference is due to be held in Makkah on 31 May 2019, the date corresponding to 26 Ramadan 1440.

Minister Shahid was accompanied by His Excellency Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, Foreign Secretary and Mr. Ahmed Salman Zaki, Assistant Director at the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs and Ms. Shafagath Shaheed, Third Secretary at the Embassy of Maldives in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**4. Open-Ended Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Ministers on the Israeli violations of the occupied City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif , Jeddah, Saudi Arabia ,17 July 2019**

**Press Release:** (<https://foreign.gov.mv/index.php/en/mediacentre/news/5116-maldives-reiterates-solidarity-with-palestine-at-oic-meeting->)

Maldives Reiterates Solidarity with Palestine at OIC Meeting

Created: 17 July 2019

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel has reiterated the Maldives support for an independent and sovereign Palestine, and condemned recent Israeli violations against the Palestinian people.

The State Minister made his remarks at the Open-Ended Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) which was held today in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. In his statement, the State Minister said that the Maldives will continue to call for an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He further stated that the injustice, oppression and humiliation of the Palestinian people cast a dark shadow over the entire Islamic Ummah. The Maldives condemned ongoing Israeli violations including the confiscation of dozens of Palestinian land properties in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Israel's threats to demolish hundreds of houses as part of the policy of 'Judaization' of the Holy City, displacing its inhabitants and changing its Arab identity.

The Final Communiqué of the meeting was adopted by consensus at the end of the session. The meeting of the Executive Committee was held upon the request of the State of Palestine. The Maldives' representation at senior levels denotes the close attention it gives to the issue of Palestine and its unwavering support for the Palestinian cause.

The State Minister was accompanied to the meeting by H.E. Mohamed Khaleel, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Maldives to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and officials from both the Maldives Embassy in Riyadh and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

END



**Statement:**

Statement by His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Khaleel

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Open-Ended Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Ministers on the Israeli violations of the occupied City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

17 July 2019, Jeddah

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalam Alaikum Warahmathullahi Wabarakaathuh,

I would like to begin by thanking our hosts the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for organising this most important meeting of the Executive Committee on one of the most important issues facing our Ummah today.

Mr Chairman,

This year, our brothers and sisters in Palestine have faced constant violations of basic rights and fundamental freedoms. Most recently, the occupying power had opened the so-called “Pilgrims’ Path” under the town of Silwan, just south of Al-Aqsa Mosque. As a result, several Palestinian homes in the neighbourhood had to be evacuated and this grave injustice threatens to sabotage any hope of a peaceful two-state solution.

This, and many other grave injustices, oppression and humiliation of the Palestinian people continues to cast a dark shadow over the work of the OIC and the Islamic Ummah. We must come to fully realise that this is a global issue that requires collective action to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people and hold to account the gross violations that continues to take place.

Mr Chairman

The Maldives will always continue to speak about the plight of the Palestinian people, and their right to self-determination – a fundamental right that has been denied for too long. The Maldives has continued to raise concerns over the occupying power’s illegal settlements and other further acts that impedes peace. I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our firm support to a two-state solution based on international consensus, which ensures an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its Capital, so that the people of Palestine may live a dignified, peaceful and prosperous life.

Thank you Mr. Chairman

**5. Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers to discuss “The announcement by Israeli Prime Minister of his intention to annex territories in the occupied West Bank in the event of winning the Israeli elections”, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 15 September 2019,**

**Press Release:**

Commitment of the Maldives to the Palestinian cause is unshakable – Minister Shahid

Created: 15 September 2019

The Minister Foreign Affairs His Excellency Abdulla Shahid has said that the commitment of the Maldives to the Palestinian cause is unshakable.

The Foreign Minister made this remark in his statement delivered at the Emergency Foreign Ministerial Conference of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) which was held today in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. In his statement, the Minister joined other Member States of the OIC in strongly condemning the recent announcement made by the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu concerning his intention to annex the Jordan Valley and the northern Dead Sea, in the event that he wins the upcoming elections in Israel.

Minister Shahid also reiterated Maldives strong support for Palestinian statehood, to realise the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and oppose any illegal settlement activity that takes place in the occupied territories, as well as to move countries’ diplomatic posts to the Holy City of Jerusalem. Minister Shahid announced that Maldives will extend its full support to Palestine during the upcoming United Nations General Assembly, and will vote accordingly on a number of resolutions articulating this support.

The meeting was held upon request by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to address the Israeli escalations and take the required urgent political and legal steps to face up to the aggressive Israeli stand. The meeting also aimed to rally the Islamic countries’ efforts through an emergency action plan in the face of this aggressive declaration and to confront it through all possible courses.

Minister was accompanied by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel.

END

**Statement:**

Statement by His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives

at the

Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers

to discuss

“The announcement by Israeli Prime Minister of his intention to annex territories in the occupied West Bank in the event of winning the Israeli elections”

15 September 2019

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

1. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Assalam Alaikum Warahmathullahi Wabarakaathuh,
2. Before I begin, let me take this opportunity to condemn yesterday's drone strikes against the Abqaiq and Khurais oil facilities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by the Houthi Rebels. The Government of Maldives stands in solidarity, and expresses its support to the Kingdom in its efforts to eradicate the scourge of terrorism on its borders.
3. Let me also express my Government's gratitude to the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for their initiative to host this timely meeting, to discuss the recent developments regarding the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
4. The Maldives joins other Member States of the OIC in strongly condemning the recent announcement made by the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu concerning his intention to annex the Jordan Valley and the northern Dead Sea, in the event that he wins the upcoming elections in Israel.
5. These recent announcements follow on from the decisions made by a number of countries to shift their embassies to the Holy City of Jerusalem, which we equally condemn, in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions concerning the final status of the Holy City. The pattern we are witnessing is unprecedented, and could have dire consequences to the peace process and the region if left unchecked.
6. Israel has illegally occupied the West Bank since 1967 and continues to show total disregard for international law, including the Geneva Conventions. Any attempt to annex any part of the occupied West Bank is an escalation of tensions in the region, and would completely undermine any modicum of peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians.
7. The international consensus for a two-state solution remains the only viable way forward towards achieving a lasting peace in the region, and we remain deeply concerned that these latest developments seek to erode the legitimate democratic and historic aspirations of the Palestinian people, and to force upon them an "apartheid state", that goes against the will of the international community and in violation of international law.
8. In the coming months ahead, the Maldives will extend its full support to Palestine during the United Nations General Assembly, and will vote accordingly on a number of resolutions articulating that support, as we have done for a number of decades.
9. The Maldives will continue to argue for Palestinian statehood, to realise the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and will equally oppose any illegal settlement activity that takes place in the occupied territories, as well as to move countries' diplomatic posts to the Holy City of Jerusalem.

10. I wish to underline here that the commitment of the Maldivian people to the Palestinian cause is unshakable. My presence here in this extraordinary meeting demonstrates that commitment. It is our hope, that the Islamic Ummah can remain united together to ensure that the attempted dilution of the peace process and the alternative avenues for a supposed peace, does not compromise the Palestinian strive for statehood, and their fundamental rights to self-determination.

11. Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Maldives calls for an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its Capital, able to live in peace, and exercise its sovereignty, free from occupation and intimidation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

## **6. Preparatory Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Baku, Azerbaijan , 21 to 22 October 2019**

### **Press Release:**

Foreign Secretary Participates at the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Baku, Azerbaijan  
Created: 23 October 2019

His Excellency Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, Foreign Secretary of the Republic of Maldives today participated at the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which is presently ongoing in Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan. The Preparatory Ministerial Meeting is being held in preparation for the 18th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the NAM, which will be attended by His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who will travel to Baku on 24 October.

In delivering his remarks, Foreign Secretary Ghafoor mentioned that cooperation between Member States of NAM is crucial to find meaningful solutions to the challenges of the world today, and that the Maldives stands ready to work with all countries to formulate adequate responses in a concerted manner.

The Foreign Secretary also alluded to the fact that climate change and environmental deterioration remains one of the most profound problems facing the contemporary world, and one of the most critical issues for the Maldives. As such, the Maldives urged Member States to demonstrate their commitments to transition to a greener, low carbon economy. The Maldives statement also outlined its solidarity with the Palestinian people and for the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine.

In concluding his remarks, Foreign Secretary Ghafoor reaffirmed the Maldives commitments to the founding principles and objectives of the Movement, and to work closely with all countries to seek a world that promotes peaceful co-existence and cooperation.

ENDS

**7. XVIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM), Baku, Azerbaijan, 26 October 2019**

**Press Release:**

Foreign Minister Shahid delivers statement at the 18th NAM Summit

Created: 26 October 2019

Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid today delivered a statement at the ongoing 18th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which is being held in Baku, Azerbaijan. He is representing the Maldives at the Summit, on behalf of His Excellency Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives.

In his statement, Minister Shahid outlined the direction the Maldives has been pursuing since the new Government came to power last year. He explained that Maldives is looking to re-engage with the international community, especially with the members of NAM, and will seek to proactively cooperate on shared interests and concerns in the multilateral arena.

Minister also stated that it is important for NAM to adapt to new and non-traditional challenges in the world, such as climate change and terrorism. He said that the value of international cooperation amongst the Member States of NAM could only be derived from the recognition of these challenges, and the application of the collective political will to address them comprehensively.

On climate change, Foreign Minister Shahid urged the international community to come together to address the challenges and consequences rising from the changing climate. He mentioned that climate change is already having a devastating effect on the world's natural resources such as water, food security and health. The Maldives will always lead from the front, in bringing to the world's attention to the impact of climate change, and in urging countries to take further action.

On the issue of Palestine, Foreign Minister Shahid outlined the Maldives' well known position on the Question of Palestine, and reiterated Maldives' unwavering support for the creation of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs is being accompanied to the 18th NAM Summit by His Excellency Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed, Foreign Secretary, Ahmed Mahir, Ambassador-at-large, and Amin Javed Faizal, Additional Secretary.

The NAM comprises of 120 Member States, and is one of the largest international organizations after the United Nations. The Maldives became a member of NAM in 1976.

ENDS

**Statement:**

XVIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) Statement by His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives Baku,  
25 October 2019

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen Assalam Alaikum Warahmathullahi Wabarakaathuh,

1. Let me begin by conveying to you Excellencies, warm greetings from my President His Excellency Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. I feel deeply honoured to address this important NAM Conference today, on behalf of President Solih amidst the distinguished Heads of States. Let me also take this moment to extend my sincere thanks to His Excellency President Ilham Aliyev, for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality offered to my delegation and I in this historic city of Baku. We appreciate the excellent arrangements made by the Government of Azerbaijan to host this important conference.

2. It is also my pleasure to congratulate Azerbaijan, our new Chair for successfully steering our collaborative work within the family of the Non-Aligned Movement. I convey my gratitude to the outgoing Chair, Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro for the excellent manner in which they have guided our deliberations.

Madam Chair,

3. In a world of endless variables, the only constant is change. Changing power structures, changing relationships and changing geopolitics, define our age of globalization. Unlike the preceding centuries in which the gravest conventional security threats were clear and well-known, in the 21st century, this is no longer the case. We need to adjust to the present realities of the world, and adapt to the non-traditional threats to international peace and security such as climate change, the build-up of cyber warfare and terrorism.

4. In November last year, the people of the Maldives elected a new Government. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was elected on a platform of change, in upholding human rights and the rule of law, in promoting the principles of democracy and rooting out corruption, and in moving ahead with an ambitious agenda of judicial reform and sustainable development for all. Today, I am proud to state that the Government of Maldives after a long period of absence, is pursuing a policy of re-engagement with the international community, to reclaim our place in the global arena, and to contribute constructively in finding solutions to the common challenges we face.

5. One of the most precarious challenges facing the Maldives and other Small Island Developing States is, the threats posed by climate change. Global warming has a cascading effect on us, whereby the increasing temperatures and rising sea levels continue to threaten our very own existence. Nations are diverting the already dwindling fresh water resources to cater for their own populations at the expense of others. Food scarcity and inflation in food prices is already a reality, especially in densely populated developing countries. These austere challenges do not only adversely affect the environment, but also have far reaching other consequences.

6. It is therefore with utmost urgency, that Maldives calls upon the nations of the world to come together to address the biggest challenge of our time – climate change. Once the tipping point is reached, nature's catastrophic and irreversible consequences will know neither states, nor boundaries.

7.As of last year, almost two-thirds of new internal displacements across the world has been reported as those resulting from disasters. Cross border disaster displacement due to environmental factors is increasing. Migration sets forth a whole new dimension of challenges including stressors on the economic and political stability of host countries. Migration due to slow onset disasters, especially climate change is happening. The World Bank had estimated 200 million climate refugees by the end of 2050. But for us in the developing world especially, time is running out to tackle climate change. It is therefore with utmost urgency, that the Maldives calls upon the nations of the world to come together to address the biggest challenge of our time – climate change. Once the tipping point is reached, nature’s catastrophic and irreversible consequences will know neither states, nor boundaries. This is fatal for one and all!

Madam Chair,

8.When the United Nations was formed in the aftermath of the Second World War, it was primarily designed for sovereign nations-states. However, modern conflicts are no longer restricted to only wars between the military forces of states. The rise of organized crime networks and terrorist groups in the 21st century has led to a scenario where non-state actors pose a grave threat to our respective countries’ national security interests. Because these networks are non-state actors, by default, they do not conform to international laws, and the norms and principles that define the use of force.

9.Non-state actors are neither limited by territorial boundaries, nor do they recognize the concept of sovereignty. As a result, these networks flout the sovereignty of not one, but multiple states in the process, thereby, extending their web of influence across boundaries and threatening the national security of all states.

10.Combating terrorism has become such a challenge, that our minds are now plagued with the question: “Can terrorism ever be completely annihilated?” The answer to that question is a complex one. In the years preceding, billions have been spent on combating this threat, without any serious headway in comprehensively addressing its root causes, or the radical ideologies that fuels it, may it be from populism, nationalism or religious extremism. This has weakened the individual state’s resolve to tackle this global threat to peace and security. There is no easy solution to this complex problem, nor can it be kicked down the road to deal with at a later stage.

11.We fully understand the environment in which terrorism thrives, its root causes are well documented. What is required is for the international community, to collectively have the political will to address this issue.

Madam Chair,

12.Nearly seven decades on, our Palestinian brothers and sisters are still struggling for independence. How much longer are we going to sit back and watch the Palestinians endure this spectacle of malevolent injustice? Israel is pursuing an unacceptable aggressive settlement regime, eating away at Palestinian territory and torpedoing the chances of success for a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders.

13. It is therefore, without question, that the Maldives fully supports and welcomes the Political Declaration of Nonaligned Movement on Palestine. We need to rise and act for our brothers and sisters, before they fall deeper into the abyss. We will continue this call, until every Palestinian can live and lead a civilized life – with peace, and dignity.

Madam Chair,

14. The world has undergone seismic shifts since the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement, the demands on governments have changed; the nature of the global issues have changed; and so, has the role of international movements like ours. The biggest challenge today for any organization, including the Non-Aligned Movement is not maintain its effectiveness and for that, we need to adapt our modus operandi to become responsive to contemporary challenges. It is only we, the Member States of NAM, that can bring relevance to our activities. We decide to uphold the Bandung Principles. We decide to ensure our responses are concerted and adequate. And it is we, who decide what our future should be. It is my sincere hope, that under your new Chairmanship, the work of Non-Aligned-Movement is revitalized and that we remain steadfast in pursuit of a world that respects the rule of law, sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality and justice. We must draw strength from among ourselves, and be resolute in attaining a future that will address the challenges of our times.

I thank you Madam.

**8. Open-Ended Virtual Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Ministers to discuss the Israeli Government's Plans to annex parts of the State of Palestine's Territory occupied in 1967, 10 June 2020**

**Press Release:**

Maldives strongly condemns and rejects proposed Israeli annexation of large parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Created: 10 June 2020

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, participated in the Open-Ended Virtual Extraordinary Meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Ministers today. The meeting, chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, brought together Foreign Ministers of the OIC to discuss the Israeli Government's proposal to annex large parts of the occupied West Bank in the State of Palestine.

In his remarks delivered at the meeting, Minister Shahid stated that the proposed Israeli annexation of the West Bank is the latest in a series of steps taken by Israel that would destabilize regional peace and security. He conveyed the Maldives' firm condemnation and rejection of the Israeli Government's plans to annex large parts of the occupied West Bank. He further said that the move compounds the suffering and existing vulnerabilities of the Palestinian people as the whole world is

preoccupied with its response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Shahid stated that the annexation goes against a rules-based international order and undermines respect for international law. In this regard, he called on the international community to do more to ensure that international law is upheld and the relevant United Nations resolutions are implemented to end the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands, and prevent further unlawful settlements.

Furthermore, Minister Shahid reiterated the Maldives' long-standing position of restoring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination by ensuring an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. He described the unilateral and unlawful plans to annex Occupied Palestinian Territory as diminishing any hopes of a two-state solution, which can only be achieved from negotiations in good faith. In conclusion of his remarks, Minister Shahid called for unity amongst the Islamic Ummah in standing side-by-side with the people of Palestine in their struggle for justice, peace and freedom.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of a resolution by the Executive Committee of the OIC condemning the threats of the Israeli Government to annex parts of the State of Palestine's territory occupied in 1967.

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, comprising of 57 Member States, has constantly advocated for the rights of Palestinian people and a two-state solution. The Maldives has been an active member of the OIC since becoming a member in 1976.

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**Statement:**

Statement by His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives at the Open-Ended Virtual Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Ministers to discuss the Israeli Government's Plans to annex parts of the State of Palestine's Territory occupied in 1967

10 June 2020

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the OIC, Distinguished Colleagues, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam Alaikum Warahmathullahi Wabarakaathuh,

I would like to convey my utmost gratitude to the Government of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, for convening this important meeting under Saudi Arabia's Chairmanship of the OIC. Let me also take this opportunity to commend the able leadership of the Secretary General in steering the work of the OIC, at a time when the challenges faced by the Islamic Ummah are many in number.

Mr. Chairman,

The aspirations of the people of Palestine remain inextricably linked to the aspirations of the people of the Maldives. The Maldives remains fully committed to our decades long foreign policy position of working towards ensuring the protection of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Since 1967, we have been witnessing the brutal usurpation of the Palestinian lands, and the continuous infringement of the rights of the Palestinian people by Israeli forces. The latest plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank is part of a series of steps taken by Israel to undermine regional peace and stability. These deliberate and calculated actions would also undoubtedly have serious and far-reaching implications on the maintenance of international peace and security as a whole. It also comes at a time, the entire world is pre-occupied with the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and the suffering of the Palestinians are at a high, given their existing vulnerabilities. If these plans by Israel are successfully implemented, they would lead to a serious blow to any hopes of a two-state solution and close the doors for negotiations. This will threaten the safety and security of the Palestinian people, and the achievement of lasting peace in the Middle East.

The planned annexation goes against a rules-based international order and respect for international law. Acquisition of territory by force is a flagrant violation of international law, and if it is unchallenged, the essence of international law and global peace will be at risk. It will also send a stark signal to the world that, countries which violate international law can do so with impunity. Therefore, the Maldives firmly condemns and rejects the Government of Israel's plans to annex large parts of the Occupied West Bank.

Without respect for international law, the human rights violations and further loss of Palestinian lands will not end. It is imperative for the international community to ensure that international law is upheld and the relevant United Nations resolutions are implemented, to end the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands, and to halt any moves to further exacerbate this grim reality for the State of Palestine.

The Maldives calls for the immediate restoration of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and for a peaceful, two-state solution derived from negotiations in good faith. We believe that a two-state solution with an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, is the only viable solution which can safeguard the dignity of the Palestinian people. Any unlawful and unilateral actions to further annex Occupied Palestinian Territory, will mean the end of a two-state solution, cementing a one-state reality, with far-reaching implications.

Mr. Chairman,

The origins of our Organization lies in the fight for the rights of the Palestinian people. It is therefore, most relevant for the Organization to continue to advocate and champion this cause in the forefront. The entire Islamic Ummah must remain united in this cause. I assure you Mr. Chairman, that it is in this very spirit, the Maldives will continue to render its unreserved support to the people of Palestine who are striving for political autonomy and justice. To our brothers and sisters in

Palestine - we stand with you, and you are not alone in your struggle for justice, peace and, most of all, freedom.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**9. Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference Entitled “ A Strong UNRWA in a Challenging World: Mobilising Collective Action”, 23 June 2020**

**Press Statement:**

Foreign Minister Shahid calls for protecting the human rights and dignity of the Palestinian people

Created: 23 June 2020

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, participated in the Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), via videoconference today. The Conference, entitled “A strong UNRWA in a Challenging World – Mobilising Collective Action” was co-chaired by His Excellency Ayman Safadi, The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; His Excellency Peter Eriksson, The Minister for International Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of Sweden.

In his remarks at the Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference, Minister Shahid highlighted the extraordinary progress achieved by UNRWA since its establishment 70 years ago, noting that over 5.5 million Palestinian Refugees depend on UNRWA for basic healthcare and education. He also expressed concern about the funding crisis faced by UNRWA, which severely affects the welfare of Palestinian people. Yet, Minister Shahid claimed, UNRWA’s perseverance in the face of the multi-faceted challenges, including COVID-19, was a testament to its resilience.

Minister Shahid further called on the international community to provide financial support to UNRWA in order for the Agency to adequately promote and protect the human rights and dignity to which the people of Palestine are entitled to. He reiterated the Maldives’ long-standing position of a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, in accordance with international law and respective UN resolutions.

The Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference for UNRWA was held to mobilise political and financial support to UNRWA, meet resource requirements for 2020, and act collectively to secure its needs for 2021 and 2022. Several UN Member States generously pledged to assist UNRWA in the face of the current crisis.

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## **Statement:**

Statement by His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference Entitled “A strong UNRWA in a challenging world- Mobilising collective action”

Created: 23 June 2020

His Excellency Ayman Safadi, The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; His Excellency Peter Eriksson, The Minister for International Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of Sweden; His Excellency Antonio Guterres, The United Nations Secretary General; His Excellency Philippe Lazzarini, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); Dear Colleagues; Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen;

Assalam Alaikum Warahmathullahi Wabarakaathuh,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Governments of Jordan and Sweden for convening this important and timely conference in support of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Let me also applaud the leadership and staff of UNRWA for their solemn work.

Allow me to recall the establishment of UNRWA seventy years ago, as a relief agency for Palestinians violently displaced amidst terror and turmoil. Today, the Agency’s expanding humanitarian responsibilities continue to cater to a spectrum of diverse needs, with an increasing number of dependents emerging each year. Over 5.5 million Palestinian refugees depend on UNRWA. Without it millions of Palestinian children will be without an education and many more will be without basic health care. The progress achieved by UNRWA so far has been nothing but extraordinary, as is its unwavering effort to reconcile the divide between peace and development.

Over the years, we have witnessed the multiple challenges endured by UNRWA, which serve today as a testament to the resilience of the agency. Yet, the current funding crisis is unprecedented, specially at a time, not only recurring surges of violence but also the horrifying outbreak of COVID-19 that has plunged millions of Palestinian refugees into a state of total despair. The Maldives is deeply concerned over the resources of UNRWA which are at the brink of exhaustion. These resources are the only guarantee for the welfare of our suffering brothers and sisters in Palestine.

Excellencies,

The Maldives reiterates its call for a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, in accordance with the International Law and respective UN resolutions. While the Palestinian people await a peaceful and just solution in their quest to return to their homes, UNRWA’s mandate is more important than ever.

The international community in its right conscious cannot ignore the perpetual suffering of the Palestinian people, and I would strongly plead that the basic welfare of the Palestinian Refugees should not be subject to indifferences towards the Agency. We must cohesively work together, bound by our moral obligations,

to provide financial support to UNRWA and ensure the continuity of its operations. I urge the international community, to contribute towards promoting and protecting the human rights and dignity for which the Palestinian people are entitled to as any one of us. Today, we pledge to do the same.

I thank you.

### **Annex III: Statements and Interventions**

#### **a) General**

##### **1. Statement by the Government of Maldives on the *attacks carried out in Gaza*, on 14 November 2019.**

Statement: (<https://www.foreign.gov.mv/index.php/en/mediacentre/news/5328-statement-by-the-government-of-maldives-on-the-attacks-carried-out-in-gaza> )

The Government of Maldives strongly condemns the recent attacks carried out in the occupied territory of Gaza by Israel, resulting in the death and injury of a number of innocent Palestinian civilians.

The Government also welcomes and commends the work of the international community, especially Egypt, in its efforts to de-escalate the situation, and take note of the ceasefire which has been reached by the parties. The Government of Maldives and the Maldivian people expresses its sincere condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims of the Israeli aggression in Gaza.

The Government of Maldives remains deeply concerned by the disproportionate use of force by Israel on unarmed civilians in the occupied territories, including on women and children. The Government recalls that the occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel, is in violation of international law and relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

The Government of Maldives reiterates its belief that finding long-lasting peace in the Middle East, rests with reaching a comprehensive agreement on a two-state solution, with the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The Government and people of Maldives express its unwavering support to the Government of the State of Palestine and the Palestinian people, in their long struggle for self-determination.

Ends

##### **2. Message by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives, on the *occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People*, 29 November 2019.**

“On this occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, on behalf of the people and the Government of the Maldives, I wish to reiterate our commitment to the long-standing ties we have with the State of Palestine and its



people. We share the anguish of millions of Palestinians, who have suffered at the hands of injustice, inhumanity and oppression for several decades.

We recognise the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people as a matter of pressing urgency, and call upon the need for a comprehensive two-state solution derived from negotiations. The efforts towards peace should be in complete alignment with the resolutions and laws adopted under the UN Security Council, UN General Assembly and other international organisations. We remain deeply concerned by the delay in delivering to the Palestinians their right to self-determination.

The Government of Maldives believes tangible progress in the Middle-East peace process is synonymous with the establishment of an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital based on the pre-1967 borders. The Maldives will always remain steadfast in its support for Palestine and its people in their struggle for dignity, justice and peace.”

**3. Statement by the Maldives at the UN Security Council Open Debate on the Situation in the Middle East, Including the Question of Palestine, 23 April 2020.**

Statement by the Maldives

UNSC Open Debate on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine

United Nations, New York, 23 April 2020

Thank you, Mr President,

My Delegation wishes to thank the Dominican Republic for convening the Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine. Despite the difficulties of convening a physical gathering at this time, we are pleased that we can contribute to this important discussion. I also wish to congratulate the Dominican Republic on their assumption of Presidency of the Security Council for this month.

The Government and the people of the Maldives attach great importance to the issue of the Middle East, and especially to the question of Palestine. Once again we take this opportunity to reaffirm our resolute solidarity with the people of Palestine, and we will continue to do so until there be a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in line with international law, the UN Charter, and relevant resolutions.

Mr President,

Tomorrow Palestinians will begin the Muslims’ holy month of Ramadan not only under cruel occupation but with the severe challenges caused by the global COVID19 pandemic. Seven decades of conflict have brought unimaginable suffering to the people of Palestine, yet the human rights violation and crimes perpetrated by the occupying power, Israel, amidst the ongoing global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating an already precarious situation. As the public health emergency persists in Palestine, unsurprisingly, Israel is actively exploiting the current crisis to inflict more misery upon the Palestinian people. While Palestinians try to grapple with the health emergency, Israel is continuing

with the demolition of Palestinian homes and properties, including water and sanitation structures. Along with these illegal actions, daily military raids and settler attacks on Palestinian civilians is severely undermining the Palestinian efforts to combat the pandemic.

This is particularly concerning for the Gaza Strip, where two million Palestinians, most of them refugees, have been forced to live under appalling conditions as a result of Israel's 13-year blockade and repeated military aggressions. The Government of Maldives condemns these deplorable acts of aggression, and calls on Israel to lift the blockade it has imposed on the civilian population in Gaza, cease its appalling attempts to spread fear and panic among Palestinian civilians—such as dumping contaminated trash around Palestinian homes—and to stop undermining the Palestinian efforts to contain the COVID-19.

Mr President, The Maldives has always believed that an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, established on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its Capital, living side-by-side, in peace and harmony with Israel, is the best and only solution to the conflict, as prescribed in the Security Council Resolution 2334.

We, therefore, believe that Israel must be compelled to cease immediately and completely all illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Further, the demolition of Palestinian homes and properties, and the forced displacement of Palestinian civilians should stop immediately.

Mr. President,

Some 5.6 million displaced Palestinian refugees depend on UNRWA for much needed humanitarian and socio-economic assistance, especially education and healthcare, including the essential emergency assistance to help confront the COVID19 pandemic. Pending a just solution to the cause of the Palestinians, the Maldives urges sufficient and predictable funding for UNRWA to enable the Agency to continue its work.

Mr President,

The Security Council needs to take urgent action to protect civilians and deliver the basic humanitarian assistance much needed by millions of Palestinians. We urge the Security Council and the entire UN membership to redouble their efforts, to end the conflict, to bring meaningful and lasting peace to the people of Palestine, as well as Israel.

Mr President,

It is an unfortunate reality that the Middle East continue to be susceptible to enduring conflicts, with tragic human suffering, such as those in Yemen and Syria. As a result, they have become, and continue to be, breeding grounds for terrorism, a global menace. It is a global threat to peace and security, requiring a global solution. The international community needs better coordination, information sharing, and cooperative strategies to tackle the threat of terrorism.

The Security Council, as the august body responsible for maintaining international peace and security, should do more to ensure that its authority and legitimacy are not compromised. The Maldives reaffirms its support to the Council, as well as to the Secretary-General, in all ongoing efforts to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**4. Statement by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives, at the *Palestinian demonstration and protest against the Israeli annexation plan organized by the Government of Palestine, on 1 July 2020.***

On 1 July 2020, President His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih participated in the Palestinian demonstration and protest against the Israeli annexation plan organized by the Government of Palestine. The President issued a Statement showing solidarity with the State of Palestine and condemning Israel's plans to annex further parts of the occupied territories.

**b) 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly**

**1. Statement delivered by Ms. Aishath Fareena, Second Secretary, under *Agenda Item 39: Question of Palestine during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting on 29 November 2018.***

Thank you, Madam President

My Delegation would like to express its appreciation for convening this important meeting on the Question of Palestine and we would like to reiterate and renew our full support and solidarity with the State of Palestine and the Palestinian people.

Madam President,

It has now been seventy-one years to the date, since this Assembly, adopted the historic Resolution 181, which sets out the framework for establishing a sovereign and independent State of Palestine.

That Resolution remains historic, because of its failure in realising its own promise of creating two separate independent States, living side by side, in peace and harmony. It is historic, too, because of its failure to protect the fundamental rights of Palestinians to live in their homes with dignity and respect. The result of this historic failure is there for all to see in its entirety; decades of oppression, illegal occupation and the denial of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms to the Palestinian people.

The “International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”, taking place today, is an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine is still unresolved and that the Palestinian people have not attained their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly. The right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right of Palestinians to return to their homes and property from which they had been expelled. We urge the international community to make every effort to protect these rights.

The Maldives condemns the continued violation of human rights and the disregard for international law in the Occupies Palestinian Territories, including in East Jerusalem. The Secretary-General has noted in his Report, the demolition of homes and the forced eviction of Palestinian families, punitive arrests, unfair trials, torture of detainees, and the use of excessive or lethal force against nonviolent demonstrations.

The Government of Maldives, therefore, urges Israel to return to the right side of international law, to restart the negotiations with the leadership of the State of Palestine in good faith and to bring an end to the seven decades of occupation. The Maldives appeals to Israel to create the necessary conditions for the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the Palestinian lands with pre-1967 borders, living side by side with Israel. That is the solution that the UN Security Council Resolutions have advanced. And that is the only viable solution.

The international community has a special responsibility to ensure that the decisions we make, the Resolutions we pass in this Assembly, are implemented in full, and in good faith. Obstacles in implementing such Resolutions have to be identified and necessary instruments have to be deployed to ensure the decisions of the United Nations are fully respected by all.

Madam President,

We have a shared responsibility—a responsibility towards sustaining peace and promoting fundamental human rights. To be able to do that, there is a need to create an environment of respect for the human rights of Palestinian people, a situation where there are no incitements or provocations, and where the fundamental freedom of people is neither suppressed, nor oppressed, by anyone. We can all take the very first step of fulfilling that responsibility by granting full membership of the United Nations to the State of Palestine. The Maldives and its people will always be with you, Palestine.

I thank you.

**2. Statement delivered by Ms. Fathimath Nuzha, Second Secretary, under Agenda Item 38: *The Situation in the Middle East*, on 30 November 2018.**

Thank you, Madam President,

The Middle East continues to capture the imagination of Maldivians, young and old alike. Not because we are in the Middle East or even in its immediate neighbourhood. But because, Maldivians care about the sufferings inflicted on the lives of so many innocent people, whose right to life is denied, whose right to basic human dignity is denied, and whose right to basic education, sanitation, and health care is denied. We care for the resolution of the conflict in Palestine, bringing an end to Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine, which remains at the root of the unending cycles of violence and conflict in the entire region.

The Maldives has always believed that the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side and in peace with Israel, is the only solution to the

conflict in Palestine. That is the solution that the UN Security Council, in particular, Resolutions 242 of 1967, 338 of 1973, and 2334 of 2016, demand. The Maldives, therefore, calls on Israel to fully implement the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, to fully respect the legal obligations it undertook in the Oslo Accords, and to implement the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap.

And yet, the Question of Palestine continues to remain unsettled and without meaningful progress. As recent as September this year, Israel's High Court rejected a petition to prevent the demolition of a village in West Bank, which will result in the displacement of hundreds of people. This will not only leave them homeless but without a livelihood, without a school for their children and without access to basic healthcare. This epitomizes the failure of the international system to bring an end to the suffering of the people of the Middle East.

Today, we once again join many other countries, in calling for a permanent end to the unlawful occupation of Palestinian lands, and to accord the Palestinian people their legitimate right to self-determination.

Madam President,

The humanitarian situation continues to worsen in Syria, where we are in the seventh year in the conflict. The Battle of Aleppo left the country in rubble. Currently, the entire world fears the outbreak of another conflict in Syria's north-west Idlib Province, which could result in the worst humanitarian catastrophe of this century. In such an event, more than three million people will be displaced with nowhere to seek shelter, food or access to healthcare. We, therefore, call upon the international community, to take more assertive steps to bring to a halt, the tide of suffering in Syria. Humanitarian intervention is an absolute necessity; a permanent political solution is a must.

The already dire situation in the Middle East is being escalated by terrorist groups such as Da'esh, who are inflicting destruction and imposing extreme social conditions, through barbaric acts of violence and bloodshed. They do not recognize borders, do not distinguish between the young, or old, women or men, nor do they respect any religion or culture. The Maldives condemns any attempts to attribute terrorism to any religion, culture, or tradition. We are also of the view that the factors of terrorism should be tackled through international cooperation that focuses on combating violent extremism.

Madam President,

It is important that we rise above the shackles of the past, in order to move towards a promising future. It is a compromise that needs to be made by the people and the leaders of the countries, to save the region that has served as the cradle of human civilization and the place of origin for several early advancements in science and technology. The Maldives, therefore, stands ready, with full of hope, to work to find a lasting solution to the conflicts, for we believe, that hardships always accompanies a season of hope.

I thank you.

**3. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Permanent Representative, at the Quarterly Open Debate on *The Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine*, on 22 January 2019.**

Thank you, Mr. President.

My Delegation wishes to thank the Dominican Republic for convening today's Open Debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine. I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected members of the Council, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia, and South Africa, who have assumed their membership of the Council this month.

Mr. President,

The Government and the people of the Maldives attaches great importance to the issue of the Middle East and especially to the question of Palestine. I wish to reiterate my Government's steadfast support to the Council as well as to the Secretary-General in all ongoing efforts to bring a lasting peace to the Middle East.

The conflict in Palestine has been going on for seven decades, despite the numerous discussions, debates, and Resolutions passed at the United Nations, including those adopted by this Council. To this day, the illegal occupation of Palestine continues; with demolitions and seizure of Palestinian-owned property; building of illegal settlements, and the gross violation of basic human rights of the Palestinian people.

The Government of Maldives condemns these acts of aggression and calls on Israel to lift the blockade it had imposed on the civilian population in Gaza, and to cease the disproportionate attacks on Palestinian civilians, including women and children. The restrictions imposed on the movement of people and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip must be lifted immediately to ensure safe delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Security Council needs to take urgent action to protect civilians and deliver basic humanitarian assistance much needed by millions of Palestinians.

Mr. President,

This Council has, declared null and void, through Resolutions 476 and 478 (1980), the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the annexation of the Holy City of Jerusalem, shifting of the Israeli capital to Jerusalem, and the decision by any country to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and shifting their embassies to Jerusalem. Through the Resolution 2334, the Council called upon all states to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967. Yet, we are witnessing that some countries are ignoring the Council's own resolutions.

The Maldives has always believed that an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, established on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its Capital, living side-by-side, in peace and harmony with Israel, is the best, and the only solution to the conflict. It is depressing to see that this solution, to which all sides in the conflict once prescribed to in the past, seems to move further and further away.

The Maldives, therefore, calls on Israel to fully implement the Resolutions of this Council and respect the legal obligations under the United Nations Charter. We also urge the Security Council and the entire UN membership to redouble its efforts, to end the conflict, to bring meaningful and lasting peace to the people of Palestine, as well as Israel.

Mr. President,

The conflict in Syria has already claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, including children. It has leveled entire cities and towns to the ground and reduced them to rubble. The resulting environment of fear and uncertainty has caused millions of Syrians to flee the country. Neighboring Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey struggles to cope with this mass exodus of refugees, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis faced by the Syrian people. Yet, the conflict is locked in a stalemate with no end in sight.

We are encouraged by the recent discussions including the Brussels Conference on Supporting the future of Syria and the region, co-chaired by the European Union and the United Nations in April 2018. We acknowledge that the Conference provided an opportunity to gather political support for the peace process and mobilise aid for the Syrians. However, the UN and the international community must do more, to reinvigorate talks to reach a peaceful settlement of this conflict.

The war in Yemen has affected millions of civilians and children are the hardest hit. The Maldives supports the UN mediated ceasefire agreed to by all the parties in December last year, and the establishment of humanitarian corridors supervised by the UN. The Maldives is encouraged by the Council's decision to adopt 2452 on 16 January to establish a special political mission to support implementation of the ceasefire agreement of 13 December 2018.

Conflicts, such as those in Yemen and Syria are breeding grounds for terrorism, a global menace which pays no heed to borders, do not distinguish between the young or old, women or men, nor respect any religion or culture. It is a global threat to peace and security, and hence requires a global solution, rather than a local one. The international community needs better coordination, information sharing, and cooperative strategies to tackle the threat of terrorism.

The Security Council is the most vital body of the United Nations. It has the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. It therefore needs to do more to ensure that its authority and legitimacy are not compromised. The Council needs to step up its efforts to ensure that its decisions are respected by everyone, every Member State, and every Member of this Council.

I thank you, Mr. President.

**4. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Permanent Representative, at the Quarterly Open Debate on *The Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine*, on 29 April 2019.**

Thank you, Mr President.

My Delegation wishes to congratulate France and Germany for the successful joint presidency of the Council for the months of March and April. It is an example of how collaborative partnerships can help to strengthen multilateralism. I would also like to note with appreciation, the positive changes introduced in recent months to improve the transparency in the working of the Council, and thereby, helping to increase the legitimacy of its decisions.

And yet, the Council is failing to protect its legitimacy on the Question of Palestine, which is probably the most enduring issue in the Council's history. Since the last debate on this topic held in January this year, more countries have announced their intention to move their Embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. And in recent weeks we heard the disturbing news that Israel's illegal annexation of the Syrian Golan is also receiving recognition. Such decisions are illegal and in clear violation of the Resolutions of this Council and the UN Charter.

This Council has declared, null and void, through the Resolutions 476 and 478 (1980), Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine, the annexation of Jerusalem, shifting of the Israeli capital to Jerusalem, and the decision by any country to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Through Resolution 2334, the Council called upon all states to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the Arab territories occupied since 1967. Similarly, any action by Israel to exercise sovereignty over Syrian Golan violates Resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), and 497 (1981).

The Maldives, therefore, requests the President of the Security Council to publicly condemn the decisions by any country to recognise Israel's illegal annexations of Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, and encourage these countries to return to the right side of international law and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with international norms of acceptable behaviour.

Israel's seven decades-long illegal occupation of Palestine violates the basic human rights of thousands of men, women and children. Israel's illegal seizure of Palestinian lands must stop! The illegal blockade of Gaza must come to an end. The racial and religious discrimination against the Arabs must end.

The Maldives reiterates its calls on Israel to stop the attacks on Palestinian civilians, including women and children. Palestinians must be treated with dignity and respect and their inalienable rights must be restored immediately.

The Maldives has always believed that an independent and sovereign Palestine, established on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its Capital, living side-by-side, in peace and harmony with Israel, is the best, and the only solution to the conflict. The Maldives calls upon the Occupying Power, Israel, to fully implement the Resolutions of this Council and respect the legal obligations under the United Nations Charter. We also urge the Security Council and the international community to redouble its efforts, to end the conflict, to bring meaningful and lasting peace to the people of Palestine.

Mr President,

The conflict in Syria has already claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, including children. It has levelled entire cities and towns to the ground and

reduced them to rubble. A lasting peace can only be created when the international community cooperate to be governed by international laws and norms.

In Yemen, my Government is encouraged by the Council's decision to adopt 2452 on 16 January to establish a special political mission to support implementation of the ceasefire agreement of 13 December 2018. The Maldives calls upon all parties of the ceasefire to exercise maximum restraint and bring an end to the long suffering of millions of civilians and children in Yemen. The Council must expedite to bring all resources together to observe the truce that is still fragile.

Mr President,

My Government reassures its support to the Council as well as to the Secretary-General in all on-going efforts to bring a lasting peace to the Middle East. It is also our wish, as we begin to observe the Holy Month of Ramadan in May, that the people of the Middle East will be able to observe this Holy Month free from hardships of conflict, be able to perform their religious duties with dignity and be treated with compassion.

I thank you, Mr President.

**5. Statement delivered by H.E. Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative at the Quarterly Open Debate on *The Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine*, on 23 July 2019.**

Thank you, Mr President.

My Delegation wishes to thank Peru for organizing today's quarterly open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine.

I would also like to thank the Special Coordinator, Mr Nickolay Mladenov, for his timely briefing.

The situation in the Middle East remains grim for the millions of people suffering in the aftermath of conflicts, terrorist attacks and other acts of violence. Despite numerous debates and calls for action, the situation in the region remains tense with a high probability of escalation into renewed conflict and unrest.

The lack of action by the international community is epitomized in the seven-decades old Question of Palestine, now one of the longest standing issues on the agenda of the Council. The peace initiatives offered by various interlocutors has so far failed to gain traction and to instigate genuine dialogue between the conflicting parties, thus, all the more reason that we must continue to strive for international consensus to resolve this issue.

Mr. President,

The plight of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination will always remain an international priority for the Maldives. Let me remind all Member States that this Council has declared, null and void, through Resolutions 476 and 478 (1980), Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine, the annexation of Jerusalem, shifting of Israel's capital to Jerusalem, and the decision by any country to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Our position on the Israeli settlement policy

and related activities in the occupied Palestinian territory remains clear and unchanged; we reaffirm UNSCR 2334 – all settlement activity is illegal under international law, and it erodes the viability of the two-state solution and the prospects for lasting peace.

Allow me to reaffirm our unwavering support to any resolution involving international consensus on a two-state solution, with an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. We urge the Security Council and the international community to redouble its efforts, to end the conflict so that the people of Palestine can enjoy meaningful and lasting peace and can live with dignity.

Mr President,

The aftermath of the conflict in Syria has presented Member States with new sets of challenges as refugees and foreign terrorist fighters continue to be held in detention facilities. This is especially true for family members, women and children left behind by foreign terrorist fighters, with no international consensus or framework to effectively deal with the situation. My delegation calls on the Council and the United Nations to facilitate and provide assistance to Member States whereby they can repatriate, rehabilitate and reintegrate these individuals back into society, after a thorough threat assessment. The Maldives looks forward to dialogue with its partners in exchanging information and views on what could be done, and what measures are most effective in the rehabilitation process. We must be united in our efforts, to avoid the impending humanitarian crisis in Syria, and must undertake efforts to ensure that hundreds of malnourished children and women do not perish in these refugee camps.

Today, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains one of the largest with over twenty million people requiring aid and tens of millions at risk of famine; the Maldives is hopeful because of the remarks made by the UN Special Envoy to this Council last week, expressing optimism that we may be "nearing the end of this war." Despite positive steps forward, we do recognize that the situation in Yemen remains fragile, and we need to find a comprehensive political solution including full implementation of Hudaydah Agreement and its mandate.

Mr President,

My Government will remain committed to work with this Council and to support the Secretary-General's efforts to find a lasting solution to the many conflicts in the Middle East. It is our collective voice and our ability to act that will provide a safer world for all of us and our future generations.

I thank you.

**6. Statement delivered by Ms Farzana Zahir, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Open Debate on *Children and Armed Conflict* on 2 August 2019.**

Thank you, Madam President.

My delegation wishes to congratulate Poland on its presidency and its efforts to focus the Council on the urgent need for a peaceful resolution to some of the long standing conflicts around the world.

Let me also extend our appreciation to all the delegations involved in bringing to the forefront, the issues of children and armed conflict, and the severity of the crisis in war-torn areas. I also wish to thank the briefers to their updates to the Council.

The Maldives is deeply concerned to learn about that over 24,000 violations were committed against children across 20 countries as documented in the Secretary General's report. Furthermore, attacks on schools and other educational facilities severely hamper access to education and restrict the development of children in affected areas. We concur with the findings and the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report and urge all member States to consider these recommendations carefully.

Madam President,

My country is committed to ensure that the rights of the child are protected, that every action taken, is in the best interest of the child. The Maldives ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts in 2004. We did so, with the belief that an international instrument to address the grave issue on the involvement of children in armed conflicts could be holistically addressed through various mechanisms, responses and assistance programmes. However, it is clear, more needs to be done, especially at the international level.

While the Maldives has world towards the implementation of the Convention into the domestic legislative framework, work is presently ongoing to further improve and amend the existing legislation to reflect our human rights obligations on the rights of the child. The Maldives will strive to improve stakeholder coordination in strengthening the child protection system. Despite much effort, we continue to face mounting challenges on human resources capacity, on technical expertise and in child-care services. As we work to promote and protect the rights of our children, we are also committed to protecting the rights of children of the world. The dream of a child in the Maldives, are the same of those of a child in Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine or anywhere in the world.

We as the international community, must collectively ensure that children caught up in the horrors of war are not swept aside due to indifference or, allowed to be caught up in diplomatic bureaucracy. We must decry each and every abuse, of any magnitude, loud and clear for all ears to hear, for all hearts to bleed in sympathy. Sexual violence against children can never be tolerates and we need protection laws at the national level implemented by every country. The UN must also keep enforcing its zero-tolerance policies.

We call on full implementation of Resolution 2427 and ensure accurate and timely reports are collected and promptly reported to national, regional, sub-regional and international governing bodies and institutions to protect children's welfare. We must further accelerate our efforts on providing resources and support to those already victimized.

Complex challenges, such as denial of humanitarian aid as a tactic of war, are exposing millions of children to hunger, diseases, homelessness, sexual exploitation- leaving their dreams shattered. Strengthen in the in the battle against evil can only be reached through consolidation of our efforts.

Madam President,

The Council must ensure implementation of the agenda on Children and Armed Conflict through the appointment of dedicated Child Protection Advisors in every peacekeeping mission, and must engage in conflict-resolution negotiations as a priority for protection of children in the process.

As outlined in Resolution 1882, member States must protect and provide support for children in armed conflicts, including children with disabilities. There is a worrisome tendency to regard children with disabilities, whose natural brilliance may be more masked to our superficial sensitivities. Yet, they require a gentle hand to pull them from a malign environment that may cause them permanent harm. Member states must also provide children with disabilities with resources for health and safety, while also providing a normative lifestyle among their peers.

Madam President,

Let me conclude by expressing the full support of the Maldives to the Secretary-General's efforts in addressing this grave situation. We remain deeply saddened by the reports of children caught up in war-torn areas, in detention facilities, and in other vulnerable situations where they may be open to exploitation, sale and prostitution. The Maldives will always defend the innocence of the children in the world, and the future that they hold in their hands.

I thank you.

c) **74<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly**

**1. Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Rep. of Maldives, during the *General Debate of the High Level Segment*, on 24 September 2019. (Paragraphs 19 to 22)**

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary General,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

There is much that is wrong in this world. The post-war multilateral order, which this institution helped usher in, shows signs of strain. Trade wars threaten to plunge us into another worldwide recession. Populism, political extremism, and nativism have found currency amongst the disaffected within our societies.

The promise of democracy, enshrined in the principle of self-determination on which this organization was found, is in retreat. Emboldened by populist rhetoric, racism and xenophobia, in various guises, threaten to rip our societies apart. Terrorism continues to plague and affect all our societies. Meanwhile, the climate crisis looms ever larger, heightened by our collective inability to address it. Which is why the world needs the United Nations now more than ever. We need to remind ourselves of the horrors that led to the formation of this institution. Let me jog our collective memory: The United Nations was formed out of the ashes of two devastating world wars in which more than a hundred million people were killed. It was borne out of a belief in the sanctity of human freedom and of self-determination, which means even small nations have a voice on the global stage.

Its charter privileged peace and international cooperation, so that we may avoid wars and enjoy the dividends of our peaceful co-existence. We need the United Nations because the problems of our times are extraordinary. Extraordinary because none of us alone can resolve them. We need the strength of the collective to fix the challenges of our times.

Mr. President,

In these difficult times, when the great wave of democracy that swept the world during the last century seems to have ebbed, the Maldives represents a remarkable story. It is a story of second chances, a story of people power, a story of how we as a nation, managed to reverse a downward spiral towards autocratic rule. Exactly one year ago, in the early hours of 24th September 2018, results of the Maldivian Presidential Elections were announced. The elections were significant because they represented our one shot at rekindling democracy in our country. As many of you would know, our democratic journey that began in November 2008 was cut short within a few years.

Lurking behind the high idealism of our democratic moment were remnants of the old autocracy. The judiciary was hijacked, parliament brought to a standstill, institutions of state co-opted and the press gagged. Political opponents were constantly threatened and opposition leaders either jailed or exiled.

Many in the international community spoke out against this reversal. As is the wont of autocrats, the regime turned its back to the world. We left the Commonwealth of Nations, insisting its calls for democracy in the Maldives was an affront to our sovereignty. Isolationism became our default foreign policy.

That we won the election last year in the face of such adversity, against odds that seemed insurmountable, is an immense credit to the Maldivian people. The responsibility they have entrusted in me is something I do not take lightly. There is much that needs to be done.

From embedding good governance, to delivering justice. From educating our young people, to uplifting our most marginalised. From creating opportunities for businesses, to leveraging the benefits of new technology. From protecting our fragile ecosystem and coral reefs, to building a vibrant Islamic society that is just and modern in its outlook.

Development without justice does not work, which is why we have a transitional justice program where we seek to redress human rights abuses, investigate murders

and enforced disappearances and bring to book the endemic corruption maligning all levels of government.

We are engaged in a comprehensive police reform program and working closely with other institutions of state to reform and modernize our judicial system. Meaningful democracy is about more than just holding elections, it's about involving citizens in the decision-making process; which is why we are working on legislation to decentralize our governance structures and devolve power to our local communities.

Mr. President,

As I said at the start, these are challenging times, which require strong action from us all. This is why on the international front, we have reaffirmed old friendships long-neglected and commenced new ones. We have begun the process of re-joining the Commonwealth of Nations. It is our intention to be a good international partner. To be part of a shared solution to the pressing issues of our time, from climate change, to fighting the scourge of terrorism.

Terrorism and violent extremism have become one of the biggest threats of the 21st century. Its roots are found not only in the disaffection and disenchantment brought on by a rapidly changing world – but also in the active efforts of opportunists who twist religion and poison young minds to do their bidding. As we have come to know, terrorism and terrorists do not recognize national boundaries. On Easter Sunday, we woke up to the shocking news of terror attacks in Sri Lanka, our closest neighbour. The danger of these networks spilling over our borders is all too real. What is required is concerted global action.

This involves everything from intelligence sharing, counterterrorism training and best practice sharing, as well as reforming our financial system to starve terrorist networks of finance. Unilateral attempts to deal with this menace are largely futile without corresponding global co-ordination, which is why the UN remains so relevant to the world.

Despite the best attempts by the UN and its Member States spanning a number of decades, the Question of Palestine remains unresolved, and on the agenda in this revered assembly.

Never before has the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people been so acutely and blatantly dismissed by Israel, marginalised and discriminated against, in complete disregard of international law, and the resolutions of both the General Assembly and the Security Council.

We are strongly of the view that a lasting peace in the Middle East can only come to fruition, through a two-state solution driven by genuine and meaningful dialogue between the Arab countries and Israel. We call on the United Nations, and its Member States to undertake every effort to work towards a settlement that would achieve this result.

The Maldives will always stand unwavering in its support for the Palestinians, in their endeavour to achieve an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its Capital City.

Mr President,

For more than thirty years we have been struggling to meaningfully address the climate emergency. For thirty years, we Maldivians have been saying that this is the fight of our lifetime, because it threatens our very existence as a nation. While the scientific evidence is irrefutable, there has been an alarming lack of global action.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, if the mean temperatures continue to rise above the two degrees threshold we will be faced with a point of no return. While the Paris Agreement on Climate Change was a breakthrough for what we could collectively achieve, so much more needs to be done.

Although this problem is not of our making, the Maldives is determined to drive the solution. We cannot and will not wait for Paris's prescribed timelines. We are revising and upscaling our Nationally Determined Contributions now. We shall work in concert with other island nations, including the Small Island Developing States and fellow members of the Alliance of Small Island States.

Just yesterday, at the Secretary General's special summit on climate change, the Maldives presented a plan, entitled climate smart resilient islands, which seeks to utilize natural solutions, promote innovation and leverage new technologies to build resilience in our communities. As part of the plan, we are seeking to phase out our usage of single use plastic by the year 2023.

This will be one of the most far-reaching and ambitious plastics phase-out plans of any nation on Earth. Furthermore, you can't protect the oceans without solving climate change and you can't solve climate change without protecting the oceans. For us this is personal! Visit the Maldives and you cross over miles upon miles of our territory before ever spotting land: a stunning 99% of the Maldives is ocean, just 1% percent is dry land, making us a very large ocean state. We can conceive of no climate and resilience plan without a sustainable ocean plan.

This week, the Maldives will enter into a partnership with the Blue Prosperity Coalition on an ambitious blue economy plan including: marine protected areas to conserve the ocean resources that sustain our livelihoods; and measures to protect them for future generations. We are confident that we will be able to receive the international community's support to help us achieve these goals.

Our dependence on our oceans is only one aspect of what it means to be a large ocean state. Our home, the Indian Ocean, has over the past two decades come to the forefront of global geopolitics and rapidly taken its place as the heart of maritime trade.

The peace and security of the Indian Ocean is inextricably linked to the peace and security of the world. Its importance to the global economy cannot be overstated. Sadly, I note that the Indian Ocean remains, especially in its South Asian Core, one of the least integrated regions in the world, lacking regional governance and unable to reap the potential economic benefits of an effective multilateral order. The

Maldives intends to promote regional integration through greater cooperation with our neighbours to make the Indian Ocean region peaceful and prosperous.

Mr President,

This great institution has helped foster peace and avert conflict for over half a century. The world order that it helped build represents the pinnacle of what concerted diplomacy can achieve, and continues to embody the hopes of all who believe in peaceful dialogue to solve global problems.

While all of us present here represent the interests of our individual nations, we also represent something far larger than that - we represent the world community, we represent humanity.

For its part, the Maldives shall continue to partner with our many international friends with a renewed spirit of openness and engagement, so that together we can overcome obstacles and effectively resolve our common challenges.

Thank you.

**2. Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the *Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers* held at the side-lines of the UNGA, on 27 September 2019. (Paragraph 5)**

Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam Alaikum Warahmathullahi Wabarakaathuh,

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General and the General Secretariat of the OIC, for convening this important meeting on the sidelines of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Let me also take this opportunity to extend the well wishes of President Solih, and the Maldivian people to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their leadership of the OIC.

This year, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih became the first Maldivian President to address the UN General Assembly in six years, highlighting the Government's renewed commitment towards renewed engagement with the international community, especially the Muslim Ummah on the core issues which affect our daily lives.

While the United Nations remains the main international fora to articulate our views on a number of issues concerning the peace and security of the world, we also strongly believe that the OIC is an important platform to discuss and find solutions to the multidimensional challenges faced by the Islamic world.

Our shared belief in consultation, cooperation, and sharing of experiences to find solutions is what unites us. The participation of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih at the OIC Summit held in Mecca this year signifies the importance we as a Muslim country attaches to the unity of the Islamic world. Despite the many challenges

faced in today's uncertain and complex international environment, it is our firm belief that what unites us is greater than the sum of our differences.

Mr. Secretary-General,

Before coming to New York to attend the General Assembly, I had the opportunity to attend the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Jeddah last week. This year alone, our brothers and sisters in Palestine have faced constant violations of their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms at the hands of the occupying power, which undermines confidence in the ability of the international community to achieve a two-state solution. The recent announcement by the Israeli Prime Minister is just one of those many actions which has undermined the peace process. The Maldives reiterates its call to support a two-state solution, with an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its Capital, living in peace with its neighbours.

In Myanmar, the Maldives also remains deeply troubled by reports of sexual and gender-based violence against the Rohingya people. We condemn these atrocities and the continued violations of their human rights. We strongly urge the Government of Myanmar to ensure a conducive environment for the safe and unhindered return of displaced Rohingya people to their homes and for them to be able to live peaceful and dignified lives.

The menace of terrorism knows no borders, nationalities, or religions. We are in the process of bringing amendments to our Prevention of Terrorism-Act and Criminal Procedures Code to ensure our nation is better equipped to deal with the threat of terrorism, and to counter radicalization in our societies. The Maldives stands ready to work with the Member States of the OIC, and the wider international community to combat this common threat.

Mr. Secretary-General,

It is clear, now more than ever, that climate change threatens the livelihoods of the people and national economies of many OIC Member States. For the Maldives, as the world's lowest-lying country, the issue of climate change is one that directly impacts our very existence. The Maldives calls for greater cooperation within the OIC to tackle this most urgent threat.

Women have contributed immensely to social, political and economic fields despite the many barriers to participation in decision-making. I am delighted to announce that the Statute of the OIC Women's Development Organisation has received the consent of our Parliament, and that we will be submitting the Instruments of Ratification with the OIC General Secretariat at the earliest possible opportunity. We call upon our fellow Member States to initiate the process of accession to this important organisation.

Just this month, two female justices were appointed to the Supreme Court of the Maldives, following their appointment by the President, and the subsequent approval by the Majlis. Despite the challenges faced, the Maldives as a Muslim nation is proud of this historic achievement and will be undertaking more intense

efforts to bring women to the heart of decision-making both in the private and public spheres.

In conclusion, Mr. Secretary-General, the Maldives will remain committed towards the noble principles of the OIC, and work closely with our partners within the organisation to promote the peaceful values of Islam. In the coming weeks, we hope to accredit our Ambassador to Saudi Arabia as the Permanent Representative to the OIC which would enable us to play an even greater, and more constructive role, within the organisation to find common solutions to challenges faced by our Ummah.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General.

**3. Statement delivered by Mr. Ahmed Salman Zaki, First Secretary, under Agenda Item 60: *Permanent Sovereignty of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the Occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, on 22 October 2019.***

Thank you, Mr Chair.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for the comprehensive Report submitted for consideration under this agenda item. The report clearly demonstrates the long-lasting negative consequences of illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, including East Jerusalem, and of the Syrian Golan. The report also gives a meticulous account of how Israel's policies, practices and activities are in contravention of international law.

Mr. Chair,

The Israeli government continues to impose severe and discriminatory restrictions on the human rights of the people of Palestine, limit the mobilisation of people and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip, and continues to accelerate the unlawful transfer of Israeli citizens to settlements in the occupied West Bank.

In the past two years, the Knesset has proposed several restrictive legislative measures that have infringed upon the rights of Palestinians, and advanced the legalisation of settlements. These include several laws exempting the Israeli Defence Force of wrongful acts committed against Palestinians in Gaza, which it defines as “enemy territory”. The independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory also notes some violations by the Israeli security forces that could be constituted as serious international crimes, including crimes against humanity. The disproportionate use of force, intentional targeting of civilian protesters in Gaza by Israeli snipers, including children and health workers, is deeply troubling.

Mr. Chair,

Since 2009, over 5000 Palestinian homes were demolished by Israeli authorities, affecting hundreds of thousands of people. Constraints on the delivery of construction materials to Gaza by Israel, and a lack of funding have hampered the reconstruction of homes severely damaged or destroyed by Israel's military operations.

This is coupled with Gaza's crippling economic situation. Gaza now has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world. In 2018, the economy contracted by 6.5 per cent.

As per the report of the Secretary General, the year 2018 was the deadliest single year for Palestinians since the 2014 conflict in Gaza, with the highest number of injuries since 2005. The massive rise in Palestinian casualties has been one of the key factors behind the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in 2018.

Such acts can only leave us further behind in our collective pledge to 'leave no one behind'. This has made the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals almost impossible for Palestine, unless drastic steps are taken. The Maldives calls on the United Nations, and the wider international community, to take concrete steps to halt this negative trajectory of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Mr. Chair,

Palestinians are not the only victims of Israel's oppressive policies. Syrian residents in the Occupied Golan continue to face infringements on their rights due to discriminatory land and housing policies, making it virtually impossible for Syrians to obtain building permits. This has also hampered the expansion of Syrian villages, leading to overcrowding with a growing population, and to a multitude of social problems.

Mr. Chair,

The Maldives will continue to advocate for full Palestinian statehood and the inalienable right of Palestinian people to self-determination. We condemn the continued violation of human rights and the disregard for international law in the occupied territories by Israel and the expansion of illegal settlements in contravention to Security Council resolution 2334.

The adherence to international law is imperative to ensure peace for Palestinian and Syrian people living under occupation. The Maldives reiterates its call for an internationally agreed two-state solution with an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its Capital, living in peace, and prosperity. It is the obligation of the international community to ensure respect for the human rights of our brothers and sisters living under occupation, including their right to be free from fear and oppression.

I thank you.

**4. Intervention delivered by Ms. Ms. Aishath Fareena, Second Secretary, on the *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, on 23 October 2019.***

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Maldives would like to thank Special Rapporteur Professor Michael Lynk for his report to this council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

Respect for rule of law and upholding of international obligations are cornerstones of world peace and security. Maldives is deeply concerned by the continuing violence as well as constant expansion of settlement in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The plight of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination will always remain an international priority for the Maldives. The Maldives also remains deeply concerned by the deteriorating human rights situation and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the State of Palestine, a crisis which is entirely man-made. Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine, the annexation of Jerusalem, and the shifting of Israel's capital to Jerusalem, are a clear violation of international law, and one which has been condemned repeatedly by the Member States of this organization.

The Maldives reiterates its call for an internationally agreed two-state solution, with an independent and sovereign State of Palestine---based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its Capital, living in peace, and prosperity. It is the obligation of the international community to ensure respect for the human rights of our brothers and sisters living under occupation, including their right to be free from fear and oppression.

We note with concern that Israel has once again refused access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories. We join the call by other countries on Israel to grant access to the current mandate holder without further delay.

The Maldives will continue to advocate for full Palestinian statehood, and the inalienable right of Palestinian people to self-determination.

Thank you.

**5. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Asim Ahmed, Ambassador-at-large, at the UNSC Open Debate on the *Situation in the Middle East, including the Questions of Palestine*, on 28 October 2019.**

Thank you, Mr. President.

I wish to thank South Africa for organising today's important Debate on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine. The Maldives remains deeply concerned about the situation in the Middle East, and views the Question of Palestine as one of particular importance.

Mr. President,

This year has witnessed the deterioration and violation of human rights of the Palestinian people. There is a limited supply of electricity in Gaza, which has compromised the water supply, sewage treatment, and hospital operations. Gaza now has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world.

The Israeli government, the occupying power, continues to place severe restrictions on the human rights of the people of Palestine, limiting the movement of people and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip, as well as accelerating the unlawful

transfer of Israeli citizens to settlements in the occupied West Bank. The occupation also fosters a breeding ground for extremism, and stands in the way of every measure that would afford them a modicum of dignity.

I wish to reiterate my Government's stance on adopting the international consensus on a two-state solution, with an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its Capital, where the Palestinian people may live in peace, dignity, and prosperity.

It is deeply troubling that, while Israel, the occupying power, seeks to further exploit, damage, and deplete the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, we still find ourselves in this hall today expressing our concerns on how little progress has been made to cease such actions.

The Maldives calls on Israel to stop the attacks on Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and to fully implement the resolutions of this Council. The Maldives also urges the Security Council to do more to bring lasting peace to the Palestinian people and the region.

Mr. President,

The ongoing Syrian conflict continues to result in human rights violations and humanitarian catastrophes. This multi-layered catastrophe in the Middle East has had dire consequences for international security. The mass exodus of refugees has further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis faced by the Syrian people. Yet, the conflict is locked in a stalemate, with no end in sight.

My Government believes that the UN, and the international community, must do more to reinvigorate talks to reach a peaceful settlement of this conflict.

The war in Yemen has affected millions of civilians, with children being the hardest hit. We must do more to help alleviate the dire situation of the most vulnerable. Peace and prosperity must be placed at the heart of conflict resolution efforts, and peace must be seen as a pre-requisite to development.

Mr. President,

The continuance of conflict in the region has bred terrorism and violence, with implications extending further than the Middle East to all parts of the world. The Government of Maldives strongly condemns terrorist attacks in the region, including those targeting civilians, shipping routes, and most recently, on two pumping stations in Saudi Aramco's East-West pipeline in the governorates of Al-Dawadmi and Afif. This threatens the security and stability of the region as well as the global economy. The scourge of terrorism is the biggest threat to global peace and security. It is a global problem that requires a global solution. The Maldives stands ready to assist the international effort to combat terrorism and counter violent extremism.

The Security Council, tasked with maintaining international peace and security, must do more to ensure that its influence and legitimacy are not compromised. The Council needs to increase its efforts to ensure that its decisions are enforced. This is necessary to maintaining peace and security.

The Maldives reaffirms its support to the Council, as well as to the Secretary-General, in all ongoing efforts to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

I thank you.

**6. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Asim Ahmed, Ambassador-at-large, under Agenda Item 69: the Report of the Human Rights Council, on 1 November 2019.**  
Thank you, Mr President.

Let me begin by thanking His Excellency Mr Coly Seck of Senegal, President of the Thirteenth Cycle of the Human Rights Council, and his bureau for steering the work of the Human Rights Council this year. I would also like to express my appreciation to Her Excellency Ms Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights, and her Office for their perseverance in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Since its establishment in 2006, the Human Right Council has made significant progress in putting the human rights perspective at the centre of the United Nations system. It has not only established itself as a forum to hear the voices from human rights victims and witnesses, but also as a body ideally positioned to respond to rights violations and emergencies. Through Commissions of Inquiries, Fact Finding Missions, or country-specific resolutions, it has drawn the attention of the world towards a number of situations where people are subjected to gross human rights violations, and prompted international action in support of protecting the human rights of millions. The UPR, which is in its Third cycle, is one of the progressive achievements of the Human Rights Council. The UPR process embodies the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity.

In the Maldives, the first democratically elected government in 2008 was successful in securing a seat in the Human Rights Council, with its democratic and human rights credentials. The Maldives successfully served two consecutive terms in the Council from 2010. Unfortunately, however, our democratic journey that began in 2008 was cut short in 2012, and the country went on a downward spiral regressing on many of the democratic gains made.

Since his election in 2018, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has taken swift measures to restore the human rights of Maldivian people, which suffered considerable neglect during the previous regime, where many fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression and assembly, as well as the peaceful conduct of political activity, were significantly curtailed. One of the first actions of the current parliament was to repeal the draconic Defamation Act, which imposed severe restrictions on the freedom of expression and the media. Among others, the Government also submitted revisions to the Political Parties Act to remove restrictions on political participation.

President Solih's government also plans to institute a transitional justice program, to seek justice for those who were unfairly tried and punished by the previous government. In addition, the government has also established a Commission on Investigation of Murders and Enforced Disappearances, with the requisite powers to investigate such heinous crimes and bring those responsible to justice. The

government has also announced a zero-tolerance policy on corruption and has taken steps to strengthen institutional mechanisms to rid our society of corruption, which had become endemic over the recent period.

As President Solih in his address to this Assembly said, “the Maldives has a remarkable history of second chances, a history of people power, a history of how we as a nation, managed to reverse a downward spiral towards autocratic rule.” However, across the globe, there are many who are not as fortunate as our people. The human rights and the humanitarian crisis in the State of Palestine are in perpetual deterioration. This crisis is the result of the illegal and prolonged occupation by Israel—an occupation which has denied generations of Palestinians of their most fundamental rights, including the right to life. This year, the people of Gaza faced a deadly start to Ramadan, marked by funerals, debris and heart-breaking anguish.

There are also millions of Syrians who are besieged, displaced, and deprived of their basic right to life and liberty. My Delegation condemns not only the gross human rights abuses in Syria, but also the failure of the international community for almost eight years to stop the unspeakable atrocities committed against the Syrian people. As we speak, a new wave of violence is unfolding in Syria.

The fate of the Rohingya community in Myanmar is another human rights and humanitarian crisis that is deeply concerning to the Maldives and the wider world. We are concerned about the thousands of Rohingya refugees who are living with extreme restrictions on their freedom of movement, be it for livelihood, healthcare or education. The Maldives adds its voice to the calls of the international community and urges the Government of Myanmar to remove all restrictions on the freedom of movement, and to grant unhindered access to all UN and humanitarian aid officials and journalists, as well as to cease all atrocities and hostilities against the Rohingya people. The Maldives also urges the Government of Myanmar to facilitate and expedite the safe, voluntary and dignified return of all the displaced Rohingya people to their homes, to live in peace and dignity.

Mr President,

While the Maldives shares its concern with the rest of the world in regard to the many violations of human rights that are occurring in several areas, we are keen to see improvements in the UN human rights mechanisms, in order to enhance their timely response to such crises. In this regard, we believe there is significant room for improvement in the workings of the Council.

The Human Rights Council can enjoy a greater level of support and cooperation from the broader UN membership when the Council is seen to be more inclusive in its working methods. Today, the working methods of the Council places many delegations from Small Island Developing States at a disadvantage. Inadequate time is given for informal consultations on most resolutions. Inputs by non-member States at informal negotiations are often overlooked, in part due to a disproportionate weight given to Member States of the Council. The Maldives, therefore, repeats its call for specific and practical measures to improve the working methods of the Council.

Mr President,

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to the human rights of our generation, and pose a serious risk to the fundamental rights of life. The Maldives introduced the idea of examining the human rights dimensions of climate change, and led the Council's efforts that resulted in the establishment of a mandate on Human Rights and the Environment. The Maldives is proud of the contributions made to the Council's work, and the outcomes that we have facilitated over the years.

The Maldives also had the privilege to lead, with the support of Core Groups, resolutions on Parliaments as promoters of human rights, on the independence of the judiciary, on children, on early and forced marriage, on freedom of assembly and association as well as on establishing and supporting the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on transitional justice.

The Maldives remains committed to strengthening the Council, its working methods, and its ability to work with Governments of Member States, in promoting and in responding to human rights around the world. Human rights remain a key pillar of the government's development policy, and we are honoured to reassure our partners that in the service of humanity our government will continue to promote and protect the rights of all, both at home and abroad.

I thank you, Mr President.

**7. Statement by H.E. Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative, at the Plenary on the *Question of Palestine*, on 3 December 2019.**

Mr. President.

My delegation wishes to thank you for convening this important dialogue on the Question of Palestine in the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

The illegal 52-year occupation of Palestine by Israel has decimated Palestine's economy, natural resources, and right to self-determination. According to the International Labour Organization, the occupied Palestinian territory has the highest unemployment rate in the world. Israel's actions in Palestine contradict the very principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Palestinians have lost access to clean water and sanitation, legal recourse and representation, and access to mineral resource extraction as a direct result of the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel.

Across the Occupied Palestinian Territories, we see human suffering, injustice and inequality, engrained by years of illegal occupation of these territories. The continuing violence in Gaza negatively affects the lives of the Palestinian people, especially women and children. In this very General Assembly Hall we proudly celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child just two weeks ago. Meanwhile, Palestinian children are continuously

being forced into arbitrary detention, harmed and injured, with many losing their lives. We, as the international community, must not ignore the plight of over two million Palestinian children. We have a duty to ensure the protection of the rights of these children in Palestine.

The Maldives calls upon the international community to protect and promote the human rights of the most vulnerable in Palestine, in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Mr. President,

The human rights violations committed by Israel in the occupied territories of Palestine also violate the Law of Occupation, and demonstrate Israel's blatant subjugation of the Palestinian people. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 states clearly that Israel's settlement activities have "no legal validity," and constitute a "flagrant violation of international law."

Israel's routine disregard for UN Security Council resolutions showcases their indifference to international law, including international humanitarian law, and undermines the role of the UN and the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security. As a result, we, as an international community, have consistently failed to realize our own promise of creating two separate and independent States that would live side by side in peace, harmony and security. The most recent UNSC Resolution on Palestine has called for an end to all Israeli settlement and all other activities that can endanger the two-State solution. However, Israel has continued its settlement goals, and any demonstrations calling for an end to their aggression have been brutally suppressed.

Mr. President,

The Government of Maldives also wishes to take this opportunity to applaud the State of Palestine for the effective manner in which it has steered the work of the Group of 77 this year. It is a clear indication of Palestine's commitment to the international community, and due regard for multilateralism. It is time for the international community to take the step in the right direction, to secure a just and better future for the people of Palestine, and to the State of Palestine's full membership to the United Nations.

Mr. President,

The Palestinian people have endured immense pain and suffering in the past 52 years. This must end. The Maldives reiterates its call for the two-State solution, and supports the formation of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, one established on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, where the people of both States live side by side in peace, security and harmony. We see this as the only viable solution that can bring lasting peace to the people of Palestine and to the region.

We also call upon the international community to take more concrete actions in the future. True change can only be realized if all parties desire a solution and are

willing to engage in open negotiations. The people of Palestine deserve justice, and the right to live peacefully in accordance with their right to self-determination.

I thank you.

**8. Statement delivered by Ms. Aishath Fareena, Second Secretary, at the Plenary on the *Situation of Middle East*, on 3 December 2019. (Paragraphs 3, 4, 6 and 11)**

Thank you, Mr President.

The Maldives wishes to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports on this agenda item and his continuing efforts towards achieving peace and stability in the Middle East.

The Maldives remains deeply concerned about the precarious situation in the Middle East. Millions of people continue to suffer, living their lives amidst conflict, terrorist attacks, and other acts of violence. The international community must do better. Peace in the Middle East is crucial for the people in the region to achieve their fundamental rights, stability and progress as well as for the world.

Mr President,

The question of Palestine is one of the longest standing issues before this assembly. For seven long decades this has remained unresolved due to lack of effective action by the international community. The government of Maldives is greatly concerned with the latest developments in Palestine. The ongoing conflict continues to result in human rights violations and humanitarian crises. Palestinian people are being killed by live ammunition during non-violent demonstrations and many others are suffering life-altering injuries.

Waking up to the sound of bullets, not knowing if their loved ones would make back home alive, is a grim reality faced by the people of Palestine. This is unacceptable. These brutalities also affect the unborn, as mothers and fathers struggle with traumatic stress. We, as the international community, cannot ignore the plight of these people living in such dire conditions. We must ensure the protection of people in Palestine.

The plight of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination will always remain a priority for the Maldives. Our position on the Israeli settlements and related activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory remains unchanged. We reaffirm UN Security Council Resolution 2334 which states that all settlement activity violates international law. We further remind Member States of UN Security Council Resolutions 476 and 478 that declared actions by Israel to change the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem are in contravention of international law. We call upon our fellow Member States, as responsible members of the international community, to respect the decisions of the Council, bearing in mind the implications for peace and security. The continuance of these illegal acts erodes the viability of a two-state solution and prospects for a lasting peace.

The Maldives reaffirms our unwavering support for a two-state solution. We stand with Palestine in their quest to establish their own state alongside Israel, on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. We urge Israel to respect international law, so that the people of Palestine can enjoy meaningful and lasting peace and can live with dignity.

Mr President,

The Maldives also remains greatly concerned about the ongoing conflicts in Yemen and Syria.

In Yemen the world's worst humanitarian crisis continues to unfold amidst a brutal conflict that has been raging now for almost five years. Eighty per cent of the Yemeni population, some 24 million people, are now dependent on aid to survive, while 12 million people are on the brink of famine. By the end of this year, the combined death toll from fighting and disease in Yemen is expected to be 230,000 people.

Meanwhile, in Syria, the ongoing civil war continues to result in violence against civilians, human rights violations and the displacement of millions of people – both inside and outside Syria's borders.

The international community simply must, do better. Long-lasting, and stable political solutions to these conflicts must be pursued with increased urgency. This is the only way to ensure peace in the Middle East, and a stable international order with security and prosperity for all.

Mr President,

The Government and the people of the Maldives will always support a peaceful and a lasting solution to the Question of Palestine through a negotiated political settlement, as well as for all other conflicts in the Middle East. We call on all parties to prioritize all efforts to restore stability in the region through peaceful means.

I thank you, Mr. President.

**9. Statement delivered by Ms. Fathimath Najwa, Minister at the Permanent Mission, on the *United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)*, on 11 November 2019.**

Mr. Chair,

My delegation acknowledges and appreciates the work of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The role of UNRWA, since the commencement of its operations in 1950, in providing humanitarian assistance to ensure a dignified life for Palestine Refugees has been crucial. Providing education, health, relief and social services, and life-saving emergency assistance to millions of Palestinian refugees, whereby alleviating their suffering and reinforcing their resilience, has been an important aspect of the Agency's work.

Mr. Chair,

In light of recent allegations of misconduct by certain individuals within UNRWA, the Maldives expresses its hope that these acts of alleged misconduct be swiftly investigated, according to the rules and regulations of the United Nations. In this regard, the Maldives calls for better transparency, accountability, and efficiency measures in carrying out the work of UNRWA. At the same time, the Maldives strongly emphasizes the need for continued and unhindered humanitarian assistance by the Agency to the millions of Palestinian refugees.

It is in this light, that my country expresses its serious concern on the recent unprecedented funding shortfall faced by UNRWA. This shortfall has forced the Agency to change the implementation of some of its emergency interventions, to ensure that vital humanitarian assistance is retained for the most vulnerable refugees. The Maldives acknowledges various measures taken over the last few years to tackle the issue of insufficient funds, and to keep pace with inflation and rising refugee population. The Maldives hopes that the Agency will continue such measures to increase its efficiency, while maintaining the quality of services to the refugees.

Mr. Chair,

It is encouraging to see that several Member States have provided financial support to the Agency, in order to address the Agency's funding shortfall. The Maldives hopes that the remaining funding shortfall will be bridged as quickly as possible, to enable the Agency to sustain its operations and continue to implement its mandate to provide humanitarian assistance to Palestine refugees.

Mr. Chair,

The plight of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination will always remain an international priority for the Maldives. The Maldives believes that a just and permanent solution must be found to this long-standing conflict. In this regard, the Maldives reiterates its call for an internationally agreed two-state solution with an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its Capital, living in peace, and prosperity. While millions of Palestinians await a just and lasting solution to return to their rightful land, UNRWA's mandate to provide essential services to them, thereby protecting this vulnerable population and supporting their human development, is essential. Therefore, the Maldives will continue to support the mandate of UNRWA, and its humanitarian assistance to better the lives of Palestinian refugees.

I thank you.

**10. Statement delivered by H.E. Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Permanent Representative, on the Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, on 13 November 2019.**

Mr. Chair,

The Maldives welcomes the Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, and wishes to express its deep appreciation to the members of the Committee for their commendable work under challenging circumstances.

Mr. Chair,

Reportedly, a sixteen-year-old boy was arrested by Israeli security forces for throwing stones. He was detained and blindfolded. When he attempted to run away, he was shot and badly injured. There was another report of a seventeen-year-old girl injured by Israeli settlers while on her way to her village. Young Palestinians are killed by live ammunition during non-violent demonstrations. More are hit by tear gas canisters and rubber bullets. To many of us, these are just stories we read or hear on the news. But, for over two million children in Palestine, these are their daily realities. This is deplorable and unacceptable. We, as international community, must not ignore the plight of the Palestinian children, living in such dire conditions. While the world proudly celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we have a duty to ensure the protection of these children in Palestine, as well.

Mr. Chair,

It has been over seven decades since the people of Palestine have been subjected to various human rights abuses, as a direct result of Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine and Arab lands. Israel's national policies blatantly and consistently violate international law, and constitute a system of discrimination which has negatively affected generations, already.

The blockade imposed on Gaza, with draconian limitations on movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian relief items, is a collective punishment of an entire population – a population of 1.9 million people, half of whom are children. Limiting the supply of electricity and water, restricting access to medical care, educational and economic opportunities, have affected the lives of Palestinians, including their well-being, health, education, livelihoods, and their environment. In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, illegal settlements continue to increase in number. Palestinian homes and properties are being destroyed and confiscated. Palestinians are being evicted from their homes and forcibly displaced. This will not create peace. This will only perpetuate poverty, increase the suffering of the Palestinians, and their dependency on humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Chair,

The Maldives reaffirms its solidarity with the people of Palestine, and reiterates its unwavering support for the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to a sovereign and independent state. As we move towards a decade of action, we must redouble our efforts to find a peaceful two-state solution, with Palestine and Israel coexisting side by side, without which we cannot achieve Sustainable Development Goals for all by 2030. We believe this two-state solution should be based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, whereby people of Israel and Palestine can live in harmony, respecting and protecting the human rights of each other. To this end, the Maldives also

expresses its firm support to Palestine in seeking the international community's political recognition that it deserves, and for Palestine to become a full Member of the United Nations.

I thank you.

d) **40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**1. Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the *High Level Segment*, on 25 February 2019.(Paragraph 16)**

Mr President, Madam High Commissioner, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good afternoon to you all,

Mr President.

The Maldives has changed. On 23rd September 2018, the people of the Maldives elected democracy into office.

With an overwhelming majority, the Maldivian people said No to authoritarianism, and Yes to democratic values, Yes to fundamental human rights and Yes to freedom of assembly and expression.

The Maldives is a member of the global family of nations, united in our shared pledge to protect and to promote the fundamental human rights of everyone, everywhere, equally, without discrimination of any kind. That is the promise of multilateralism, most clearly manifested by the United Nations, in empowering the individuals, the people, whose fundamental human rights are being violated, at times by their own Governments.

Yet, our approach towards promoting and protecting human rights must undergo radical changes. We need to encourage countries, societies, and communities to nurture an order, where there is reverence to the principles of respect, tolerance, and co-existence.

That is the approach President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has adopted for the Maldives. The President's vision is to bring transformative change to the Maldivian society, where the respect for human rights is a way of life; where there is no place for tyranny; and where no Government can suppress individual liberty and freedom.

Freedom of assembly is guaranteed in the Constitution and by law, and yet, the previous Government, from 2015 to 2018, banned demonstrations of any kind, and detained anyone that dared to assemble to show dissent. That needs to change.

Media freedom and freedom of expression are guaranteed in the Constitution, and yet, journalists have been threatened on a regular basis. One of my last acts ending my 25 year career as a member of parliament was to annul the draconian

Anti- Defamation Act, which was brought in by the previous government. During the last five years, a journalist Mr. Yameen Rasheed was brutally murdered, and another Mr. Ahmed Rilwan disappeared. To bring the perpetrators to justice, President Solih has established the Commission on the Investigation of Murders and Disappearances to scrutinise allegations of murder and involuntary disappearances. I assure you that we will continue to bring positive change, until the Maldivian society becomes a sanctuary for freedom of expression.

Individual freedom cannot be sustained over time without the empowerment of women. The President has already set a target to increase the number of women in executive positions and have led by example. Thirty-five percent of the President's Cabinet of Ministers are women. Out of the 17 diplomatic missions, 41 percent of the missions are headed by women ambassadors. I am proud to highlight that the Maldives Mission in Geneva is an all-female mission.

Number of programmes aimed at prevention of rights abuses, promotion and protection of rights have already begun. One such area of reforms is the criminal justice system including prison reform where the Government is in the process of putting in place proper principles and practices governing the treatment of prisoners, in accordance with the "Mandela Rules".

The most important partners in the global human rights discourse are this Council and its mechanisms, OHCHR and civil society organizations. The Maldives has renewed the Standing Invitation we had earlier extended to all special procedures mandate holders to visit the Maldives.

Given the experience of past decade there is consensus that without addressing the inherent flaws in the judiciary and strengthening independent institutions, our desire to protect and promote human rights cannot be achieved.

On our request, the UN is in the process in sending a human rights expert to assist the Government in its compliance with various human rights instruments. Furthermore, we are also working with UNDP in formulating the National Human Rights Action Plan, the implementation of which will be an important milestone.

Mr President,

Climate change is a violation of basic human rights. When I addressed this Council eleven years ago as the then Foreign Minister, I put forward the case for examining the negative impacts of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights, which culminated in the establishment of a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment.

The Maldives will continue with its advocacy on behalf of SIDS here in Geneva, and elsewhere, for urgent actions on human dimensions of climate change.

President Solih recently launched a campaign to reduce single-use plastic at Government institutions, as an important step towards the preservation of our

Ocean and our environment. In addition, the Government has declared three eco-rich sites in the northern most atolls.

Mr President,

In Palestine, the Occupying Power continues to violate with impunity, the fundamental rights of Palestinians on a daily basis. This Council has to remain united in condemning the atrocities that Israel continues to unleash on Palestinians and demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The Council also must remain seized of the critical situation facing the Rohingya people in Myanmar. We reiterate the demand for unhindered humanitarian access in accordance with International Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Mr. President,

Let us be very clear. International conventions, the Resolutions of the UN, and national legislations are important and necessary, but not sufficient, in fostering a value system that respects fundamental human rights. We have to cultivate a culture, a way of life, and set of beliefs that respect the fundamental rights of individuals.

In the Maldives, democracy is now in power; it has returned to office with the promise of restoring democratic values in the society. The road ahead will, at times, be rocky and challenging. But we will not backslide. Instead, we will move forward in our journey, strong in our conviction, clear in our direction, and united in our belief that a society's most sacrosanct value must be its unqualified respect for the fundamental human rights of every individual.

Thank you Mr President.

**2. Joint Statement delivered by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the *Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 Protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territories* under Agenda Item 7, on 18 March 2019.**

Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the OIC member states.

The OIC would like to welcome the Commission of Inquiry to investigate in the events occurred in the context of mass protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 30 March 2018 and we thank them for the comprehensive report presented to the Human rights council. And we once again condemn Israel's refusal to give access and to cooperate with the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry.

Mr. President,

In the light of this report, the OIC condemns the ongoing barbaric aggression by the Israeli occupation forces against civilian protesters in the occupied and besieged Gaza Strip, which, until last week, killed approximately 256 Palestinians and wounded over 29 thousand others, including children, health workers, journalists and persons with disabilities. The targeting of civilians especially the protected persons and intentionally by the Israeli snipers is in direct violation of international law and it tantamount to a war crime. Which is what the COI concluded in its investigation.

The more than a decade long closure and blockade, has a devastating impact on the 2 million Palestinians' rights to health, education, family, access to economic opportunities, access to justice, and in particularly grave cases, the right to life in Gaza. Which led the Palestinian people to demonstrate and call for their rights. And their right to peaceful assembly is protected by all laws which were affirmed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr. President,

In this regard, the OIC calls on all states and relevant UN bodies to take concrete and decisive actions to ensure the implementation of the recommendations made in the report, to hold those responsible accountable for the violations and crimes they committed, to end the culture of impunity and to compel Israel to comply with its obligations under international law.

I thank you.

**3. Joint Statement delivered by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the General Debate under Agenda Item 7 on Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, 18 March 2019.**

Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

We are deeply disappointed that certain member states have stopped participating in Agenda Item 7 which is a deliberate attempt to undermine the credibility of the Human Rights Council.

The OIC is disturbed by double standards which embolden Israel the Occupying power to continue its systematic and gross violations with total impunity, thus undermining the peaceful efforts for the realization of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

Israel, the Occupying power, continues to relentlessly act as a State above the law and unbound by principles of international law. It blatantly defies all UN resolutions and persistently refuses to cooperate with UN mechanisms and bodies, and all without any consequence.

Mr. President, The OIC strongly condemns the recent brutal aggression perpetrated by the occupying power against Al-Aqsa Mosque and against all

the worshipers. The systematic aggressions and attacks against Al-Aqsa Mosque by the occupying power calls for public mobilization at all levels to protect it and to thwart the Israeli plans aimed at controlling and dividing it.

The OIC is concerned that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continue to expand, in particular in Occupied East Jerusalem and the surrounding areas, being the main obstacle for a political solution. We deplore the involvement of Israeli and multinational corporations in illegal settlements, resulting in the risk of corporate complicity in war crimes. Moreover, trade with Israeli settlements contributes to the existence and maintenance of settlements, and thus illegal and should be ceased.

It is in this context that we take note of the High Commissioner's letter, and we ask for the fulfillment of Resolution 31/36 mandate in its entirety, by publishing the Database at the earliest.

Mr. President,

The OIC believes that the passing of the Israeli "Jewish Nation-State" bill turns a "de-facto" Apartheid regime into a "de-jure" reality for all of historic Palestine. This law builds up on dozens of racist and discriminatory laws against non-Jews, being an extension of racist and colonialist practices that aim at burying the rights of the Palestinian people.

**4. Joint Statement delivered by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the *Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967* under Agenda Item 7, on 18 March 2019.**

Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the OIC member states.

We thank the Special Rapporteur Professor Lynk, for his report to the Council. The report highlights blatant human rights violations by the occupying forces in the Occupied State of Palestine. We deplore Israel's non-cooperation with the Special Rapporteur. Such non-cooperation should not be allowed to continue and we call for the necessary action to be taken by the UN to remedy this grievous situation and bring Israel into compliance.

Mr. President,

As stated by the Special Rapporteur in his report, "As the occupying power, Israel is restricted by law to acting only as the temporary administrator of the Palestinian territory until it returns the territory in full, in as short and as reasonable a time as possible, back to the inherent sovereign and protected population: the Palestinian people. As such, the occupying power acquires no sovereignty right over any of the territory, and it is prohibited from taking any steps towards annexation."

However, Israel the Occupying power, deliberately and openly use and exploit the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a sovereign country would use its own assets. They continue to exploit and destruct Palestinian water, agricultural land, minerals, mud, stone, and oil. Furthermore, the appropriation, destruction, seizure, and pillaging of Palestinian natural resources have serious social, economic, and environmental impact on the affected Palestinian communities, and notably infringe on Palestinians' fundamental right to self-determination.

Finally, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for all of its illegal policies and practices by which it has expropriated and colonized the Palestinian land, forcibly displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinian civilians, and stolen unquantifiable amounts of natural resources from Palestine.

Mr. President,

Our question to the Special Rapporteur is the following: What measures can be taken by the international community, including in this chamber, to reverse the systematic impunity for Israel's violations?

I thank you.

**5. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative, at the *Interactive Dialogue on with the Special Rapporteur and Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Occupied Palestinian Territories*, on 18 March 2019.**

Thank you Mr. President

The Maldives welcomes the report by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. S. Michael Lynk and Independent International Commission of Inquiry and reaffirm our full support to your mandates.

The Maldives reiterates its strong condemnation of the systematic violations of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law incessantly perpetrated by the Israeli in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

We are deeply disturbed by the findings of the Commission's investigation stating that 60 Palestinian demonstrators were killed by Israeli security forces on 14 May 2018, the highest one-day death toll in Gaza since their military operation in 2014. The Commission has also reported that Israeli security forces killed 35 children during the demonstrations in 2018. Further, the Commission investigated several emblematic cases of persons with disabilities who were killed by Israeli forces. The Maldives would like to reiterate the call by the Commission on the Government of Israel, to refrain from using lethal force against civilians, including children, journalists, health workers and persons with disabilities, who pose no imminent threat to life.

Mr. President,

With reference to the report by the Special Rapporteur, we are astounded by the severity of the water crisis in Gaza. The United Nations estimated in 2017 that more than 96% of Gaza's sole source of natural water – had become unfit for human consumption, and this water would be irreversibly damaged as a drinking source by 2020 without a radical intervention. We call on the international community to provide substantial funding to prevent another humanitarian disaster and reiterate the recommendation made by the Special Rapporteur for the Government of Israel as the occupying power to renegotiate the agreement on water to provide equitable access to water which is a fundamental human right.

Mr. President,

The Maldives deeply empathise with the suffering that the Palestinian's are constantly enduring. We urge this Council to step up the efforts to ensure Palestinians to live a life in dignity with access to basic services including healthcare, food and water. We call on Israel to grant OHCHR, Special Rapporteur and the Commission of Inquiry access to the Occupied Palestinian Territory to assess the situation more closely.

Thank you Mr. President.

**6. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative, during the *General Debate Item 7*, on 18 March 2019.**

Thank you Mr. President,

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

The Maldives once again speaks on this item to reaffirm its unwavering long-standing solidarity with the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. We firmly support a sovereign and independent Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its Capital. Until and unless we find a peaceful solution to this prolonged conflict of modern history, this Item must remain on the Council's agenda.

Last year, we witnessed Israel's inhumane aggression on Gaza which deepened the already dire humanitarian crisis. It is very clear that the military action by the occupying power, Israel was a grave breach of international human rights and humanitarian law as the attacks did not comply with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution.

Mr. President,

The right to self-determination is a basic human right enshrined in the United Nations Charter, yet, Palestinians had been denied this fundamental right for so long. We strongly oppose the Occupying Power, Israel's continued strategy primarily aimed at taking over Palestinian land and natural resources.

A failure to address the plight of Palestinian people would be a failure on the part of this august Council to uphold human rights, and the cause of humanity. We call

upon the international community to assume its legal responsibilities and to ensure that the human rights violations and abuses perpetrated by Israel are held accountable.

Thank you Mr. President.

e) **41st Session of the Human Rights Council**

**1. Joint Statement delivered by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) during the General Debate under Agenda Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, on 8 July 2019.**

Mr. President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

Once again, we express deep concern that certain member states decided to boycott Agenda Item 7 which is a deliberate attempt to undermine the credibility of the Human Rights Council. We would like to ask those boycotting agenda item 7 what did they achieve? Has Israel stopped its systematic violations of international law, human rights, and UN resolutions? It did not, but regardless some states have decided that its "unfair" to "single out" the only UN member state who has never honored one single resolution by the UN.

Israel, the Occupying power, continues to relentlessly act as a State above the law and unbound by principles of international law and all without any consequence.

Mr. President,

52 years have passed since Israel occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

Clearly this is not a "temporary occupation", but a colonial settlement enterprise aimed at taking as much as Palestinian land and natural resources as possible. This is a grave violation of International Law and the obligations of Israel under signed agreements as well as of UN resolutions. As Israel celebrated last May 70 years of UN membership, this should serve as a reminder that Israel has never implemented any UN resolution dealing with the issue of Palestine.

The OIC is concerned that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continue to expand, in particular in Occupied East Jerusalem and the surrounding areas.

The OIC also deplores projects aimed to link West Jerusalem to the Old City south of Al Aqsa Mosque Compound, in the occupied State of Palestine. In addition to being in clear violation of international humanitarian law, these projects will assist in the reinforcement of Israel's illegal de facto annexation of East Jerusalem and encouraging the illegal transfer of Israel's population into occupied Palestine.

We deplore the involvement of Israeli and multinational corporations in illegal settlements, resulting in the risk of corporate complicity in war crimes. Moreover,

trade with Israeli settlements contributes to the existence and maintenance of settlements, and thus illegal and should be ceased. It is in this context we ask for the fulfillment of Resolution 31/36 mandate

in its entirety, by publishing the Database at the earliest.

Mr. President,

The OIC strongly condemns the gross violation of Palestinian rights, especially in Gaza with the continuation of an imposed illegal military siege and punitive measures that began over 12 years ago. It is worth mentioning that Gaza is the most densely populated place and considered the poorest.

The OIC deplores the violent arrest and detention raids throughout the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Palestinian civilians are being detained daily with young men and boys especially targeted by the occupying forces. The total number of Palestinian detainees is approximately 5,700 of which 46 are women, 230 are children and approximately 500 administrative detainees. From 1967 to May 2019, 219 prisoners have died while in Israeli detention.

Mr. President,

The OIC is also concerned of the continued occupation of the Syrian Golan. And demands an end to its illegal occupation of Syrian land and Lebanese lands.

Every passing day reaffirms that Israel is more interested in colonizing Palestinian land, rather than achieving a just peace and security. The Question of Palestine has remained a failed test for the international community. In this sense, the United Nations has a special responsibility of putting an end to the over half a century of systematic Israeli violations of human rights and international law in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

I thank you.

**2. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative, during the *General Debate Item 7*, on 8 July 2019.**

Thank you, Mr. President,

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

The Maldives will continue to speak under this agenda item, reaffirming our unwavering and long-standing support to Palestine, and our solidarity with the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. We continue to advocate for a resolution involving international consensus on a two-state solution, with a sovereign and independent Palestine, based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, so that the people of Palestine can live in peace, prosperity and in dignity.

Mr. President,

We urge the Council and its membership to undertake extended efforts to ensure that the Palestinian people are afforded the basic rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international law. The grave injustice, oppression and the humiliation of the Palestinian people by Israel continues to cast a dark shadow over work of the Council and other international bodies. We must all come to the realisation that this global issue will not fade away, be forgotten or lapse into the annals of history. We must therefore, collectively, take meaningful action to alleviate their suffering and to hold to account the gross violations that continue to take place.

Mr. President,

The right to self-determination is a basic human right enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Palestinians have been denied this fundamental right for too long. The Maldives has always raised concerns over the occupying power's illegal settlements, and will continue to advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**f) 42nd Session of the Human Rights Council**

**1. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative, during the *General Debate Item 7*, on 23 September 2019.**

Thank you, Mr President,

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

The sharp escalation of violence in the occupied Palestinian Territory is deeply alarming, particularly the occurrences in the Gaza Strip, resulting in the death of several Palestinians. As the High Commissioner noted, it is particularly tragic that a large proportion of the victims were children. We also note with concern the rising number of health workers and journalists who have suffered multiple injuries, some of whom are left with permanent disabilities. We offer our sincere condolences to the families who have lost loved ones and share their grief in these difficult times.

Mr. President,

We believe that excessive and disproportionate use of force is contrary to international human rights and humanitarian laws. We call upon the parties amidst the conflict in Gaza to exercise maximum restraint, to de-escalate violence, and uphold international humanitarian laws. The Maldives calls on Israel to guarantee unimpeded access to Gaza for international humanitarian organisations, and fully cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms.

Mr. President,

The Maldives strongly condemns the recent announcement made by the Prime Minister of Israel on his intent to annex the Jordan Valley and the northern Dead Sea, upon the possibility of winning the upcoming elections in Israel. The slightest

attempt to annex any part of the occupied West Bank will further escalate tensions in the region, and would completely undermine any modicum of peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

The Maldives will continue to advocate for a resolution involving international consensus on a two-state solution, with a sovereign and independent Palestine. The right to self-determination is a basic human right enshrined in the United Nations Charter and this right must be granted for the people of Palestine.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**g) 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**1. Statement delivered Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the *High Level Segment*, on 25 February 2020. (Paragraph 11)**

Madam President,

Madam High Commissioner,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam Alaikum, and a very good afternoon to you all.

1. As we mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, we owe a debt of gratitude to many. To all those who tirelessly worked to uphold the UN Charter; and to the many who continue to uphold the values enshrined in it. Their noble work has rewarded us, through cooperation and dialogue to embrace a culture of respect and reverence to basic rights and fundamental freedoms. My country, the Maldives stands as an example. Our re-engagement with the international community to promote and protect human rights, has allowed us to leave behind a painful legacy of authoritarianism and a culture of impunity.

Madam President,

2. Last year, I shared with this Council, the transformative changes that had been brought about with the election of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in 2018. I spoke of our vision to reinforce our commitments to human rights, and to never go backwards. Today, I am here to tell you that we have achieved important milestones in our journey. I thank our international partners and OHCHR for their support in this journey.

3. President Solih assumed office in 2018, pledging to prioritise human dignity and the sanctity of human life, to carry out substantial institutional reforms and to pursue good governance in the best interest of our people. Our re-engagement with our partners globally has been driven by a genuine desire to be a responsible and a respected member of the international community.

4. In February this year, the Maldives re-joined the Commonwealth of Nations after an absence of four years. We are extremely grateful for the support we received from member states. It is an honour to be part of an organization that promotes the values we wish to uphold.

Madam President,

5. In September last year, the Maldives ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and signed the Declaration under Article 22 of the Convention against Torture. The Maldives has already submitted its notification to withdraw the reservations to Part 1 (b)(e)(g)(h) and also to Part 2 of Article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Further, I am pleased to inform that the Maldives will be ratifying the Convention on Enforced Disappearances in the coming months.

6. The Maldives hosted two special procedures mandate holders since then. We look forward to welcome the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression next week. I once again reiterate the Standing Invitation to all special procedures mandate holders.

7. The Third Cycle of the Maldives UPR will be held in May this year. We intend to accept recommendations, and to engage constructively to further strengthen our national human rights framework.

8. I am also pleased to share with the Council, that for the first time since 2002, there are no longer any cases of Maldivians before the Committee on Human Rights of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). This significant development denotes the progress we have achieved in the promotion and protection the human rights of Parliamentarians in the country.

9. On the domestic front, several of our legal instruments have been amended and signed into Law last year in accordance to international obligations. The Child Rights Protection Act now conforms to the CRC. The Juvenile Justice Act raised the age of criminal responsibility to 15 years.

10. Through recent legislative amendments, we have empowered the Local Councils and allocated a third of all local council seats to female councillors. We have ensured the independence of lawyers. We have carried out a comprehensive audit of all the prisons in the country, and we are committed to meet international standards, including the Mandela Rule

Madam President,

11. In the international sphere, the Maldives remains deeply concerned by the plight of the Palestinian people, especially women and children in the occupied territories. We remain steadfast in our support for their inalienable right to self-determination. The Maldives calls on the international community to collectively and decisively work towards a lasting and meaningful solution to the Palestinian question.

12. On Myanmar, the Maldives welcomes the recent ruling by the International Court of Justice on the Rohingya people. I am pleased to announce that the Maldives intends to support the ongoing efforts to secure accountability for the perpetrators of genocide against the Rohingya people, in line with the decision taken by the OIC during the Summit held in Makkah last year. The Maldives Cabinet has now decided that there are strong grounds for intervening in support of the Rohingya people in the case before the ICJ. We will be filing a written declaration at the appropriate time. As a member of the OIC, let me also thank The Gambia for taking the initiative on this issue.

Madam President,

13. On the 12th of this month, the Maldives Parliament adopted a motion declaring a climate emergency, 12 years after we initiated discussions on the 'human dimension of climate change' at the 7th Session of the Council. Today, we reiterate our concerns. Climate change has serious implications for the exercise of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. We urge the international community to step up efforts to avert the impacts of climate change, not just for SIDS, but for all countries.

Madam President,

14. Before I conclude, let me take a moment to sincerely thank High Commissioner Bachelet, and her office, for the support extended to the Maldives in implementing our human rights agenda.

15. The Maldives will continue to promote and protect human rights of all. We are committed to work constructively with the international community to further advance and build upon the accomplishments we have achieved so far.

Thank you, Madam President.

**2. Joint Statement delivered by Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) during General Debate under Agenda Item 7: Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, on 16 March 2020.**

Madam President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

Once again, we regret that some member states continue to boycott item 7, with the pretext that this agenda item is singling out Israel. The boycott of this agenda item only encourages Israel, the occupying power to continue its relentless acts with complete impunity. Item 7 is a long standing item on the council's agenda as set out in IB package provides a forum wherein states are meant to identify means to ensure that Israel is held accountable for its violations.

Today the situation has been dramatically worsened, even more during the Covid-19 Pandemic where Israel the occupying power has exploited the crisis locally and Globally to go ahead with its annexationist plans with the support of the US administration that has provided a total protection for Israel to continue

violating the human rights of the Palestinian people. For this, the OIC rejects the so called peace vision announced on 28 January 2020, this vision outrageously dismisses the right of Palestinian to exercise their right to self determination in a sovereign contiguous state with East Jerusalem as the capital, the vision furthermore calls for annexation of land in clear violations of international law. The US support for annexation has emboldened Israeli impunity and provided the Israeli government with a green light to annex all West Bank settlements and the Jordan Valley and maintain its occupation making a sovereign, independent and contiguous Palestinian state impossible.

The OIC strongly deplores the announcements made by Israel of annexation plans of areas in the west bank, particularly Hebron, the Jordan valley and the northern portion of the dead sea.

Madam President,

The OIC is concerned that the illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continue to expand and the advancement of plans for settlement construction continues at a higher rate than last year, in particular in Occupied East Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. It is in this context we welcome the release of the database of companies operating in the Illegal Israeli Settlements and we look forward to the annual update by the the OHCHR of the database of companies as mandated in HRC resolution 31/36.

The OIC deplores the violent arrests and detentions by the occupying power throughout the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The OIC strongly condemns the systematic attacks and aggressions against Al-Aqsa Mosque and all worshipers by the occupying power, and we call upon the international community to abide by their legal obligations to to thwart any plans aimed at controlling and dividing it.

Madam President,

The situation on the ground further confirms that Israel is more interested in colonizing Palestinian land, rather that achieving a just peace and security. For that, we urge the international community to urgently uphold its legal and moral obligations to force Israel to end its illegal occupation accordance with international law, to achieve a just solutions bases on the two states solution on the borders of June 4, 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital. And end the illegal occupation of all occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan and the Lebanese territories, and the continuing violations of the human rights of its people.

I thank you.

**3. Statement delivered by H.E. Dr. Hala Hameed, Permanent Representative, during the *General Debate Item 7*, on 15 June 2020.**

Madam President,

The Maldives aligns itself with the statement by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC. We are deeply concerned about the unprecedented challenges faced by the Palestinian people during the COVID-19 pandemic. We call on the international community to provide an effective and sustainable response to the pandemic in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Madam President,

The Maldives welcomes the OHCHR's release of the database of business enterprises involved with illegal Israeli settlements in the OPT. These 100-plus multinational companies must be held accountable for their actions, as they are conducting business with a regime that blatantly violates the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people without regard to international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We also look forward to seeing the database updated annually as mandated by the Council.

The Maldives strongly rejects and condemns further plans by the Government of Israel to annex large parts of the Occupied West Bank, as well as the current illegal annexation and settlements in the OPT. We call upon Israel to refrain from using lethal force against innocent Palestinians, including journalists, women, children, and medical personnel. We call on the United Nations to strengthen its efforts to find a peaceful solution to this long-standing conflict that recognizes a sovereign and independent State of Palestine as per the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Thank You

#### **h) 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

##### **1. Joint Statement by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the Interactive dialogue with *the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967* under Agenda Item 7, on 16 June 2020.**

Madam President,

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the OIC member states.

We thank the Special Rapporteur Professor Lynk, for his report to the Council. We deplore once again Israel's non-cooperation with the Special Rapporteur. Such non-cooperation should not be allowed to continue and we call for the necessary action to be taken by the UN to remedy this grievous situation and bring Israel into compliance.

The report highlights blatant human rights violations by Israel the occupying power in the Occupied State of Palestine.

The OIC condemns the illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory that continue to expand in addition to the advancement of plans for

settlement construction at a higher rate than last year, in particular in Occupied East Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. All this to advance its annexationist scheme in contradiction of international law.

Moreover, Israel also persists with racist, demographic tactics, including by renewal of its ban on Palestinian family reunification in Jerusalem, and the ban of entry to worshippers to Al-Aqsa Mosque, while facilitating provocative raids by illegal Israeli settlers.

The OIC condemns the blockade imposed on Gaza for 13 years now affecting all aspects of lives for more than 2 million people. As indicated by the Special Rapporteur the blockade of Gaza , and the actions of Israel towards the protected population of Gaza amount to collective punishment under international law.

Furthermore, Israel, the occupying power continue with its collective punishment policy towards the Palestinian population, including the demolition of houses, the extended curfews, blockades and withholding of bodies in flagrant violation of international law particularly the Hague regulations of 1907 and article 33 of the Fourth Geneva convention.

The OIC once again emphasizes that allowing impunity to continue when it comes to Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people normalizes these crimes worldwide. Ending the occupation is an international responsibility the world cannot ignore any longer. In this regard the OIC would like to ask the Special Rapporteur what measures should be taken by the international community within their third state responsibility to put an end the 53 years colonial occupation?

**2. Statement Delivered by Ms. Shahiya Ali Manik, First Secretary, at the Interactive Dialogue with *the Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territories*, on 16 July 2020.**

Madam President,

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

The prolonged Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and violation of the Rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories has deprived them of their right to self-determination, as well as their social, economic and cultural rights.

We are deeply concerned and condemns in the strongest possible terms the collective punishment against the Palestinian people imposed by the Government of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian territories. The tactics used by the Government of Israel such as demolition of homes, psychological and economic warfare, setting up of roadblocks, denying access to basic humanitarian needs such as water, food and healthcare especially during this pandemic is inhumane.

We call upon the Government of Israel to end all forms of collective punishment and to comply with its international obligation as an occupying power under the Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Madam President,

We note and appreciate the OHCHR's release of the database of business enterprises involved with illegal Israeli settlements in the OPT and support the call of the Special Rapporteur to invest in resources to make the database a living document.

In conclusion, we reiterate the Maldives' long-standing position of restoring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination by ensuring an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

I Thank You.

#### **Annex IV: Resolutions**

##### **c) 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

- 1. HRC Resolution "Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem" (A/HRC/40/L.25) considered under Agenda Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.**

*Maldives co-sponsored this resolution.*

**40/... Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Recalling the relevant rules and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, which is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,*

*Recalling also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other human rights covenants, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

*Recalling further* the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and 17 December 2014 at the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, at which the High Contracting Parties reaffirmed, inter alia, their commitment to uphold their obligation to ensure respect for the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling* its relevant resolutions, including resolutions S-9/1 of 12 January 2009, 19/17 of 22 March 2012, S-21/1 of 23 July 2014 and S-28/1 of 18 May 2018,

*Recalling also* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Expressing its appreciation* to the independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict, and all other relevant United Nations mechanisms, as well as the treaty bodies and other United Nations bodies, for their reports,

*Recognizing* the work of Palestinian, Israeli and international civil society actors and human rights defenders in documenting and countering violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Affirming* the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians and reaffirming the obligation to ensure the protection of civilians in armed conflict,

*Gravely concerned* by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law, including possible war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the findings of the independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, of the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict, of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, of the United

Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, and of the boards of inquiry convened by the Secretary-General,

*Condemning* all violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, and appalled at the widespread and unprecedented levels of destruction, death and human suffering caused in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Stressing* the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, and affirming that this is necessary in order to uphold human rights and international law,

*Deploring* the non-cooperation by Israel with all Human Rights Council fact-finding missions, the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict and the independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the refusal to grant access to and cooperate with international human rights bodies and a number of United Nations special procedures seeking to investigate alleged violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Regretting* the lack of implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports of the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict,<sup>1</sup> the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,<sup>2</sup> and the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,<sup>3</sup> which follows a pattern of lack of implementation of recommendations made by United Nations mechanisms and bodies,

*Alarmed* that long-standing systemic impunity for international law violations has allowed for the recurrence of grave violations without consequence, and stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

*Regretting* the lack of progress in the conduct of domestic investigations in accordance with international law standards, and aware of the existence of numerous legal, procedural and practical obstacles in the Israeli civil and criminal legal system contributing to the denial of access to justice for Palestinian victims and of their right to an effective judicial remedy,

*Emphasizing* the need for States to investigate and prosecute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, to end impunity, to uphold their obligations to ensure respect and to promote international accountability,

*Noting* the accession by the State of Palestine on 2 January 2015 to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

*Recognizing* the importance of the right to life and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association to the full enjoyment of all human rights,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the independent commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;<sup>4</sup>

2. *Calls upon* all duty bearers and United Nations bodies to pursue the implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports of the independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict, the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, in accordance with their respective mandates;

3. *Notes* the importance of the work of the independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict, the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, and of the information collected regarding grave violations in support of future accountability efforts, in particular information on alleged perpetrators of violations of international law;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law are held to account through appropriate, fair and independent national or international criminal justice mechanisms, and to ensure the provision of effective remedy to all victims, including full reparations, and stresses the need to pursue practical steps towards these goals to ensure justice for all victims and to contribute to the prevention of future violations;

5. *Stresses* that all efforts to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be grounded in respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law and should ensure credible and comprehensive accountability for all violations of international law in order to bring about sustainable peace;

6. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to cooperate fully with the preliminary examination of the International Criminal Court and with any subsequent investigation that may be opened;

7. *Denounces* all acts of intimidation, threats and delegitimization directed at human rights organizations, civil society actors and human rights defenders involved in documenting and countering violations of international law and impunity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls upon all States to ensure their protection;

8. *Condemns* the apparent intentional use of unlawful lethal and other excessive force by Israel, the occupying Power, against civilians, including against civilians with special protected status under international law, notably children, journalists, health workers and persons with disabilities, who pose no imminent threat to life;

9. *Calls upon* all parties to ensure that future demonstrations remain peaceful and to abstain from actions that could endanger the lives of civilians;

10. *Calls upon all States* to promote compliance with international law and all High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to respect, and to ensure respect for, international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with article 1 common to the Geneva Conventions, and to fulfil their obligations under articles 146, 147 and 148 of the said Convention with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and the responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties, including by ensuring that they do not become involved in internationally unlawful conduct;

11. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the field presence of the Office of the High Commissioner in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, and to deploy the personnel and expertise necessary to monitor and document the ongoing violations of international law in the context of large-scale civilian protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, in accordance with the findings of the independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the commission of inquiry and to provide the Human Rights Council with an oral update at its forty-second session, and to present a report to the Council at its forty-third session, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

12. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

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**2. HRC Resolution “Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem” (A/HRC/40/L.27) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.**

*Maldives co-sponsored this resolution.*

**40/... Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and affirming that these human rights instruments, among others, are applicable to and must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling also* relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

*Taking note* of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,<sup>1</sup> and other relevant recent reports of the Human Rights Council,

*Stressing* the urgent need for efforts to reverse the negative trends on the ground and to restore a political horizon for advancing and accelerating meaningful negotiations aimed at the achievement of a peace agreement that will bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the resolution of all core final status issues, without exception, leading to a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the question of Palestine,

*Noting* the accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, and its accession on 2 January 2015 to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

*Recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

*Noting in particular* the Court's reply, including that the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

*Reaffirming* the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and deeply concerned at the fragmentation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, through the construction of settlements, settler roads, the wall and other measures that are tantamount to de facto annexation of Palestinian land,

*Emphasizing* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and reaffirming the obligation of the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention under articles 146, 147 and 148 with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties and to ensure respect for international humanitarian law,

*Stressing* the importance of accountability in preventing future conflicts and ensuring that there is no impunity for violations and abuses, thereby contributing to peace efforts and avoiding the recurrence of violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

*Expressing grave concern* at the continuing violations of international humanitarian law and the systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including that arising from the excessive use of force and military operations causing death and injury to Palestinian civilians, including children and women, and to non-violent, peaceful demonstrators and to journalists, including through the use of live ammunition; the arbitrary detention of Palestinians, some of whom have been detained for decades; the use of collective punishment; the closure of areas; the confiscation of land; the establishment and expansion of settlements; the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949; the forcible displacement of civilians, including of Bedouin communities; the policies and practices that discriminate against and disproportionately affect the Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; the discriminatory allocation of water resources between Israeli settlers, who reside illegally in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the Palestinian population of the said Territory; the violation of the basic right to adequate housing, which is a component of the right to an adequate standard of living; the revocation of residency permits from Palestinians of East Jerusalem and their eviction from

their city; the destruction of property and infrastructure, inter alia, homes of Palestinians; the hampering of humanitarian assistance and the destruction of, inter alia, structures provided as humanitarian aid, contributing to a coercive environment that leads to the forcible transfer of Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including when carried out as an act of collective punishment in violation of international humanitarian law; incidents of harassment of and attacks on school children and attacks on educational facilities by Israeli settlers and as a result of Israeli military action; and all other actions designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Deploring* all conflicts in and around the Gaza Strip and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and elderly persons, the widespread destruction of thousands of homes and of civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and all violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

*Gravely* concerned in particular about the disastrous humanitarian situation and the critical socioeconomic and security situations in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the prolonged continuous closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and from the continuing and vastly negative repercussions of previous Israeli military operations, and about the firing of rockets into Israel,

*Expressing deep concern* at the detrimental impact of continued impediments to the reconstruction process on the human rights situation and on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population, and calling upon the international community to step up its efforts to provide the Gaza Strip with the assistance that it requires,

*Stressing* the need for all parties, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the rapid and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons,

*Stressing also* the need also to end immediately the closure of the Gaza Strip and for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population within and into and out of the Gaza Strip, while taking into account Israeli concerns,

*Expressing deep concern* at the Israeli policy of closures and the imposition of severe restrictions and checkpoints, several of which have been transformed into structures akin to permanent border crossings, other physical obstacles and a permit regime, which are applied in a discriminatory manner affecting the Palestinian population only and all of which obstruct the freedom of movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian goods, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and impair the Territory's contiguity, violating the human rights of the Palestinian people,

*Convinced* that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts made to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and expressing grave concern at the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

*Deploring* all policies and practices whereby Israeli settlers, who reside illegally in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are accorded preferential treatment over the Palestinian population in terms of access to roads, infrastructure, land, property, housing, natural resources and judicial mechanisms, resulting in widespread human rights violations of Palestinians,

*Expressing deep concern* that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women and elected members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, continue to be detained and held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, lack of proper medical care, denial of family visits and denial of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also at the ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and all reports of torture,

*Recalling* the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), and calling for respect for those rules,

*Recalling also* the prohibition under international humanitarian law of transfers and deportations of civilians from or to occupied territories,

*Deploring* the practice of withholding the bodies of those killed, and calling for the release of the bodies that have not yet been returned to their relatives, in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law,

*Stressing* the need for the protection of human rights defenders engaged in the promotion of human rights issues in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to allow them to carry out their work freely and without fear of attack, harassment, arbitrary detention or criminal prosecution,

*Convinced* of the need for an international presence to monitor the situation, to contribute to ending the violence and protecting the Palestinian civilian population and to help the parties to implement the agreements reached, and in this regard recalling the positive contribution of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron, and regretting the unilateral decision by Israel not to renew its mandate, thereby dispensing with one of the few established mechanisms for conflict resolution between Israelis and Palestinians, which may therefore have a negative impact on the situation,

*Emphasizing* the right of all people in the region to the enjoyment of human rights as enshrined in the international human rights covenants,

1. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, withdraw from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, so as to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its universally recognized right to self-determination;
2. *Reiterates* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council are illegal and have no validity;
3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation and in breach of the Convention;
4. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, and that it fully respect human rights law and comply with its legal obligations in this regard, including in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;
5. *Calls for* urgent measures to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994;
6. *Deplores* the persistent non-cooperation of Israel with special procedure mandate holders and other United Nations mechanisms, and calls for full cooperation by Israel with the Human Rights Council and all its special procedures, relevant mechanisms and inquiries, and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

7. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the wall and any other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, all of which have, inter alia, a grave and detrimental impact on the human rights of the Palestinian people and the prospects for a peaceful settlement;
8. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and as demanded by the General Assembly in its resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, and that it immediately cease the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle forthwith the structure situated therein, repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and make reparation for all damage caused by the construction of the wall, which has had a grave impact on the human rights and the socioeconomic living conditions of the Palestinian people;
  9. *Calls upon* Israel to immediately cease any demolitions or plans for demolitions that would result in the forcible transfer or forced eviction of Palestinians, particularly in the vulnerable areas of the Jordan Valley, the periphery of Jerusalem and the South Hebron Hills, to facilitate the return of those Palestinian communities already subjected to forcible transfer or eviction to their original dwellings and to ensure adequate housing and legal security of tenure;
10. *Deplores* the illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem, including the construction of settlements in various areas; the demolition of residential structures, the forced eviction of Palestinian inhabitants and the application of the policy of punitive home demolitions; the ongoing policy of revoking the residency permits of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem through various discriminatory laws; excavations in and around religious and historic sites; and all other unilateral measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the city and of the territory as a whole, including those stemming from attempts aimed at illegally changing the status quo of holy sites;
11. *Expresses grave concern* at the restrictions imposed by Israel that impede the access of Christian and Muslim worshippers to holy sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls upon Israel to include guarantees for non-discrimination on grounds of religion or belief as well as for the preservation and peaceful access to all religious sites;
12. *Urges* Israel to ensure that water resource allocation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is not discriminatory and does not result in water shortages disproportionately affecting the Palestinian population of the West Bank, and to take urgent steps to facilitate the restoration of the water infrastructure of the West Bank, including in the Jordan Valley, affected by the destruction of the wells of local civilians, roof water

tanks and other water and irrigation facilities under military and settler operation since 1967;

13. *Expresses concern* about the so-called Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People, adopted by the Knesset, currently under judicial review, which has raised further concerns regarding compliance with international law, including the law of occupation, insofar as it applies to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
14. *Also expresses concern* at the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law adopted by the Knesset, which suspends the possibility, with certain rare exceptions, of family reunification between Israeli citizens and persons residing in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, thus adversely affecting the lives of many families;
15. *Reiterates* the need for respect for the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world;
16. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease immediately its imposition of prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including those amounting to a blockade on the Gaza Strip, which severely restricts the freedom of movement of Palestinians within, into and out of Gaza and their access to basic utilities, housing, education, work, health and an adequate standard of living via various measures, including import and export restrictions, that have a direct impact on livelihoods, economic sustainability and development throughout Gaza, aggravating the state of de-development in Gaza, and in this regard calls upon Israel to implement fully the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing in order to allow for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods and for the acceleration of long overdue reconstruction in the Gaza Strip;
17. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where the bombardment of populated areas has caused extensive loss of life and a vast number of injuries, including among thousands of children and women, massive damage and destruction to homes, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, vital infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity networks, religious sites and public institutions, including hospitals and schools, United Nations facilities, and agricultural lands, the large-scale internal displacement of civilians, and the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians in the context of protests in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip;

18. *Also condemns* the firing of rockets against Israeli civilian areas resulting in loss of life and injury;
19. *Reiterates* the responsibility of Israel, the occupying Power, to respect the right to health of all persons within the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to facilitate the immediate, sustained and unfettered passage of humanitarian relief, including the access of medical personnel, their equipment, transport and supplies to all areas under occupation, including the Gaza Strip, and the granting of exit permits for patients in need of medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip, and stresses the need for the unhindered passage of ambulances at checkpoints, especially in times of conflict;
20. *Urges* Member States to continue to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip;
21. *Calls upon* Israel to end all harassment, threats, intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders and civil society actors who peacefully advocate for the rights of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including by cooperating with United Nations human rights bodies, and underscores the need to investigate all such acts, ensure accountability and effective remedies, and to take steps to prevent any further such threats, attacks, reprisals or acts of intimidation;
22. *Expresses deep concern* at the conditions of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including minors, in Israeli jails and detention centres, calls upon Israel to explicitly prohibit torture, including psychological torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, demands that Israel, the occupying Power, fully respect and abide by its international law obligations towards all Palestinian prisoners and detainees in its custody, expresses its concern at the continued extensive use of administrative detention, calls for the full implementation of the agreement reached in May 2012 for a prompt and independent investigation into all cases of death in custody, and calls upon Israel to immediately release all Palestinian prisoners, including Palestinian legislators, detained in violation of international law;
23. *Calls* for urgent attention to be paid to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails, and also calls for respect for the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);
24. *Demands* that Israel cease its policy of transferring prisoners from the Occupied Palestinian Territory into the territory of Israel, and respect fully its obligations under article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention;
25. *Urges* Israel to ensure that any arrest, detention and/or trial of Palestinian children is in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including by refraining from holding criminal proceedings against them in

military courts that, by definition, fall short of providing the necessary guarantees to ensure respect for their rights and that infringe upon their right to non-discrimination;

26. *Emphasizes* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and the promotion of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;

27. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination, as a matter of urgency, in the light of the onset of the fiftieth year of the Israeli occupation and the continued denial and violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people;

28. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

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**3. HRC Resolution “Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan” (A/HRC/40/L.28) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.**

*Maldives co-sponsored this resolution.*

**40/... Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other applicable instruments,

*Recalling* relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council, the Security Council and the General Assembly reaffirming, inter alia, the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, including in East Jerusalem,

*Recalling also* Human Rights Council resolution 19/17 of 22 March 2012, in which the Council decided to establish an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the human rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Noting* the accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, and its accession on 2 January 2015 to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

*Reaffirming* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan,

*Recalling* the declarations adopted at the Conferences of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, held in Geneva on

5 December 2001 and 17 December 2014, and reaffirming that States should not recognize as lawful a situation arising from breaches of peremptory norms of international law,

*Affirming* that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population to the territory it occupies constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I to the four Geneva Conventions,

*Recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

*Noting* that the International Court of Justice concluded, inter alia, that the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, had been established in breach of international law,

*Taking note* of the recent relevant reports of the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the treaty bodies monitoring compliance with the human rights treaties to which Israel is a party, and the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,

*Recalling* the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,<sup>1</sup>

*Expressing its grave concern* at any action taken by any body, governmental or non-governmental, in violation of the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions relevant to Jerusalem,

*Noting* that Israel has been planning, implementing, supporting and encouraging the establishment and expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967, through, inter alia, the granting of benefits and incentives to settlements and settlers,

*Recalling* the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and emphasizing specifically its call for a freeze on all settlement activity, including so-called natural growth, and the dismantlement of all settlement outposts erected since March 2001, and the need for Israel to uphold its obligations and commitments in this regard,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, by which, inter alia, Palestine was accorded the status of non-member observer State in the United Nations, and also of the follow-up report thereon of the Secretary-General,<sup>2</sup>

*Aware* that Israeli settlement activities involve, inter alia, the transfer of nationals of the occupying Power into the occupied territories, the confiscation of land, the destruction of property, including homes and projects funded by the international community, the forcible displacement of Palestinian civilians, including Bedouin families, the exploitation of natural resources, the conduct of economic activity for the benefit of the occupying Power, disruption to the livelihood of protected persons, the de facto annexation of land and other actions against the Palestinian civilian population and the civilian population in the occupied Syrian Golan that are contrary to international law,

*Affirming* that the Israeli settlement policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, seriously endanger the viability of the two-State solution, undermining the physical possibility of its realization and entrenching a one-State reality of unequal rights,

*Noting* in this regard that the Israeli settlements fragment the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, into isolated geographical units, severely limiting the possibility of a contiguous territory and the ability to dispose freely of natural resources, both of which are required for the meaningful exercise of Palestinian self-determination, and deeply concerned that the magnitude, persistence and character of the settlement enterprise suggest that the occupation has been established with the intention of making it permanent, in violation of the prohibition of acquisition of territory resulting from the use of force,

*Noting* that the settlement enterprise and the impunity associated with its persistence, expansion and related violence continue to be a root cause of many violations of the Palestinians' human rights, and constitute the main factors perpetuating Israel's belligerent occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967,

*Deploring* in particular the construction and expansion of settlements by Israel in and around occupied East Jerusalem, including its so-called E-1 plan, which aims to connect its illegal settlements around and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem, the continuing demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families from the city, the revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the city, and ongoing settlement activities in the Jordan Valley, all of which further fragment and undermine the contiguity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Expressing grave concern* at the continuing construction by Israel of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, in violation of international law, and expressing its concern in particular at the route of the wall in departure from the Armistice Line of

1949, which is causing humanitarian hardship and a serious decline in socioeconomic conditions for the Palestinian people, fragmenting the territorial contiguity of the Territory and undermining its viability, creating a fait accompli on the ground that could be tantamount to de facto annexation in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949, and making the two-State solution physically impossible to implement,

*Deeply concerned* that the wall's route has been traced in such a way to include the great majority of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Gravely concerned* at all acts of violence, destruction, harassment, provocation and incitement by extremist Israeli settlers and groups of armed settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, agricultural lands and historic and religious sites, and the acts of terror carried out by several extremist Israeli settlers, which are a long-standing phenomenon aimed at, inter alia, displacing the occupied population and facilitating the expansion of settlements,

*Expressing concern* at ongoing impunity for acts of settler violence against Palestinian civilians and their properties, and stressing the need for Israel to investigate and to ensure accountability for all of these acts,

*Aware* of the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, including the destruction of orchards and crops and the seizure of water wells by Israeli settlers, and of the dire socioeconomic consequences in this regard, which precludes the Palestinian people from being able to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources,

*Noting* that the agricultural sector, considered the cornerstone of Palestinian economic development, has not been able to play its strategic role because of the dispossession of land and the denial of access for farmers to agricultural areas, water resources and domestic and external markets owing to the construction, consolidation and expansion of Israeli settlements,

*Aware* that numerous Israeli policies and practices related to settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, amount to blatant discrimination, including through the creation of a system privileging Israeli settlements and settlers, against the Palestinian people and in violation of their human rights,

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 22/29 of 22 March 2013, in follow-up to the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling also* the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which place responsibilities on all business enterprises to respect human rights by, inter alia, refraining from contributing to human rights abuses arising from conflict, and call upon States to provide adequate assistance to business enterprises to assess and address the heightened risks of abuses in conflict-affected areas, including by ensuring that their current policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures are effective in addressing the risk of business involvement in gross human rights abuses,

*Noting* that, in situations of armed conflict, business enterprises should respect the standards of international humanitarian law, and concerned that some business enterprises have, directly and indirectly, enabled, facilitated and profited from the construction and growth of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Emphasizing* the importance for States to act in accordance with their own national legislation on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law with regard to business activities that result in human rights abuses,

*Concerned* that economic activities facilitate the expansion and entrenchment of settlements, aware that the conditions of harvesting and production of products made in settlements involve, inter alia, the exploitation of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calling upon all States to respect their legal obligations in this regard, including the obligation to ensure respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention,

*Aware* that products wholly or partially produced in settlements have been labelled as originating from Israel, and concerned about the significant role that the production and trade of such products plays in helping to support and maintain the settlements,

*Aware also* of the role of private individuals, associations and charities in third States that are involved in providing funding to Israeli settlements and settlement-based entities, contributing to the maintenance and expansion of settlements,

*Noting* that a number of business enterprises have decided to disengage from relationships or activities associated with the Israeli settlements owing to the risks involved,

*Expressing* its concern at the failure of Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate fully with the relevant United Nations mechanisms, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli settlements established since 1967 in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal under international law, and constitute a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and to economic and social development;
2. *Calls upon* Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan, to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49 thereof, and to comply with all its obligations under international law and cease immediately all actions causing the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan;
  3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all settlement activities in all the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls in this regard for the full implementation of all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including, inter alia, resolutions 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 452 (1979) of 20 July 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003 and 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016;
4. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, including to cease forthwith the works of construction of the wall being built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, to dismantle forthwith the structure therein situated, to repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and to make reparation for the damage caused to all natural or legal persons affected by the construction of the wall;
5. *Condemns* the continuing settlement and related activities by Israel, including the construction and expansion of settlements, the expropriation of land, the demolition of houses, the confiscation and destruction of property, the forcible transfer of Palestinians, including entire communities, and the construction of bypass roads, which change the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, constitute a violation of international humanitarian law, in particular article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and of international human rights law, and undermine the viability of the two-State solution;
6. *Expresses its grave concern* at declarations by Israeli officials calling for the annexation of Palestinian land, and reaffirms the prohibition of acquisition of territory resulting from the use of force;
7. *Also expresses its grave concern* at and calls for the cessation of:

- (a) The operation by Israel of a tramway linking the settlements with West Jerusalem, which is in clear violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions;
- (b) The expropriation of Palestinian land, the demolition of Palestinian homes, demolition orders, forced evictions and “relocation” plans, the obstruction and destruction of humanitarian assistance and the creation of a coercive environment and unbearable living conditions by Israel in areas identified for the expansion and construction of settlements, and other practices aimed at the forcible transfer of the Palestinian civilian population, including Bedouin communities and herders, and further settlement activities, including the denial of access to water and other basic services by Israel to Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in areas slated for settlement expansion, and including the appropriation of Palestinian property through, inter alia, the declaration of “State lands”, closed “military zones”, “national parks” and “archaeological” sites to facilitate and advance the expansion or construction of settlements and related infrastructure, in violation of Israel’s obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law;
- (c) Israeli measures in the form of policies, laws and practices that have the effect of preventing the full participation of Palestinians in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and prevent their full development in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip;

8. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power:

- (a) To end without delay its occupation of the territories occupied since 1967, to reverse the settlement policy in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, and, as a first step towards the dismantlement of the settlement enterprise, to stop immediately the expansion of existing settlements, including so-called natural growth and related activities, to prevent any new installation of settlers in the occupied territories, including in East Jerusalem, and to discard its so-called E-1 plan;
- (b) To put an end to all of the human rights violations linked to the presence of settlements, especially of the right to self-determination, and to fulfil its international obligations to provide effective remedy for victims;
- (c) To take immediate measures to prohibit and eradicate all policies and practices that discriminate against and disproportionately affect the Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, by, inter alia, putting an end to the system of separate roads for the exclusive use of Israeli settlers, who reside illegally in the said territory, the complex combination of movement restrictions consisting of the wall, roadblocks and a permit regime that only affects the Palestinian population, the application of a two-tier legal system that has facilitated the establishment

and consolidation of the settlements, and other violations and forms of institutionalized discrimination;

- (d) To cease the requisition and all other forms of unlawful appropriation of Palestinian land, including so-called State land, and its allocation for the establishment and expansion of settlements, and to halt the granting of benefits and incentives to settlements and settlers;
  - (e) To put an end to all practices and policies resulting in the territorial fragmentation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and which are isolating Palestinian communities into separate enclaves and deliberately changing the demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory;
  - (f) To take and implement serious measures, including the confiscation of arms and enforcement of criminal sanctions, with the aim of ensuring full accountability for and preventing all acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and to take other measures to guarantee the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians and Palestinian properties in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
  - (g) To bring to a halt all actions, including those perpetrated by Israeli settlers, harming the environment, including the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely water and land resources, and which pose an environmental, sanitation and health threat to the civilian population;
  - (h) To cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the occupied Syrian Golan;
9. *Welcomes* the adoption of the European Union Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the European Union since 2014;
10. *Urges* all States and international organizations to ensure that they are not taking actions that either recognize, aid or assist the expansion of settlements or the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to continue to actively pursue policies that ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to these and all other illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
11. *Reminds* all States of their legal obligations as mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004 on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including not to recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall, not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by such construction,

and to ensure compliance by Israel with international humanitarian law as embodied in the Fourth Geneva Convention;

12. *Calls upon* all States:

- (a) To distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967, including not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in these territories with regard to, inter alia, the issue of trade with settlements, consistent with their obligations under international law;
- (b) To implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to take appropriate measures to help to ensure that businesses domiciled in their territory and/or under their jurisdiction, including those owned or controlled by them, refrain from committing, contributing to, enabling or benefiting from the human rights abuses of Palestinians, in accordance with the expected standard of conduct in the Guiding Principles and relevant international laws and standards, by taking appropriate steps in view of the immitigable nature of the adverse impact of their activities on human rights;
- (c) To provide guidance to individuals and businesses on the financial, reputational and legal risks, including the possibility of liability for corporate involvement in gross human rights abuses and the abuses of the rights of individuals, of becoming involved in settlement-related activities, including through financial transactions, investments, purchases, procurements, loans, the provision of services, and other economic and financial activities in or benefiting Israeli settlements, to inform businesses of these risks in the formulation of their national action plans for the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and to ensure that their policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively address the heightened risks of operating a business in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
- (d) To increase monitoring of settler violence with a view to promoting accountability;

13. *Calls upon* business enterprises to take all measures necessary to comply with their responsibilities under the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and relevant international laws and standards with respect to their activities in or in relation to the Israeli settlements and the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to avoid the adverse impact of such activities on human rights, and to avoid contributing to the establishment, maintenance, development or consolidation of Israeli settlements or the exploitation of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

14. *Requests* that all parties concerned, including United Nations bodies, implement and ensure the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and endorsed by the Human Rights Council through its resolution 22/29, in accordance with their respective mandates;
15. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies to take all necessary measures and actions within their mandates to ensure full respect for and compliance with Human Rights Council resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011, on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and other relevant international laws and standards, and to ensure the implementation of the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, which provides a global standard for upholding human rights in relation to business activities that are connected with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
16. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of the provisions of the present resolution at its forty-third session, with particular emphasis on the policies and practices linked to the settlement enterprise that discriminate against the Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

17. Decides to remain seized of the matter
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**4. HRC Resolution “Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination”(A/HRC/40/L.26) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.**

*Maldives co-sponsored this resolution.*

**40/... Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the provisions of Articles 1 and 55 thereof, which affirm the right of peoples to self-determination, reaffirming the need for the scrupulous respect of the principle of refraining in international relations from the threat or use of force, as specified in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, and affirming the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory resulting from the threat or use of force,

*Guided also* by the provisions of article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which affirm that all peoples have the right to self-determination,

*Guided further* by the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in particular article 1 thereof, and by the provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, and in particular Part I, paragraphs 2 and 3, relating to the right of self-determination of all peoples and especially those subject to foreign occupation,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 181 A and B (II) of 29 November 1947 and 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, and all other relevant United Nations resolutions, including those adopted by the Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, that confirm and define the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination,

*Recalling* also Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002 and 1402 (2002) of 30 March 2002,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, Reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, relevant United Nations resolutions and declarations, and the provisions of international covenants and instruments relating to the right to self-determination as an international principle and as a right of all peoples in the world, and emphasizing that this jus cogens norm of international law is a basic prerequisite for achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

*Deploring* the plight of millions of Palestine refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted from their homes, and expressing deep regret about the fact that more than half of the Palestinian people continue to live in exile in refugee camps throughout the region and in the diaspora,

*Affirming* the applicability of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources to the Palestinian situation as an integral component of the right to self-determination,

*Recalling* the conclusion of the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion of 9 July 2004, that the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, which is a right erga omnes, is severely impeded by Israel, the occupying Power, through the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which, together with the Israeli settlement enterprise and measures previously taken, results in serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including the forcible transfer of Palestinians and Israeli acquisition of Palestinian land,

*Considering* that the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people is being violated further by Israel through the existence and ongoing expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Noting* that the failure to bring the occupation to an end after 50 years heightens the international responsibility to uphold the human rights of the Palestinian people, and expressing its deep regret that the question of Palestine remains unresolved 70 years since the resolution on partition,

*Reaffirming* that the United Nations will continue to be engaged on the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable, permanent and unqualified right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to live in freedom, justice and dignity and the right to their independent State of Palestine;

2. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately end its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and further reaffirms its support for the solution of two States, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security;

3. *Expresses* grave concern at any action taken in contravention of the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relevant to Jerusalem;

4. *Expresses* grave concern at the fragmentation and the changes in the demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which are resulting from Israel's continuing construction and expansion of settlements, forcible transfer of Palestinians and construction of the wall, stresses that this fragmentation, which undermines the possibility of the Palestinian people realizing their right to self-determination, is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and emphasizes in this regard the need for respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

5. *Confirms* that the right of the Palestinian people to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources must be used in the interest of their national development, the well-being of the Palestinian people and as part of the realization of their right to self-determination;

13. *Calls upon* all States to ensure their obligations of non-recognition, non-aid or assistance with regard to the serious breaches of peremptory norms of international law by Israel, in particular of the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force, in order to ensure the exercise of the right to self-determination, and also calls upon them to cooperate further to bring, through lawful means, an end to these serious breaches and a reversal of Israel's illegal policies and practices;
14. *Urges* all States to adopt measures as required to promote the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, and to render assistance to the United Nations in carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Charter regarding the implementation of this right;
15. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

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d) **43<sup>rd</sup> Session of Human Rights Council**

1. **HRC Resolution “Right of the Palestinian People to Self Determination” (A/HRC/43/L.39) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.**

*Maldives co-Sponsored the resolution.*

**43/... Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the provisions of Articles 1 and 55 thereof, which affirm the right of peoples to self-determination, reaffirming the need for the scrupulous respect of the principle of refraining in international relations from the threat or use of force, as specified in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, and affirming the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory resulting from the threat or use of force,

*Guided also* by the provisions of article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which affirm that all peoples have the right to self-determination,

*Guided further* by the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in particular article 1 thereof, and by the provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, and in particular Part I, paragraphs 2 and 3, relating to the right of self-determination of all peoples and especially those subject to foreign occupation,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 181 A and B (II) of 29 November 1947 and 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, and all other relevant United Nations resolutions, including those adopted by the Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, that confirm and define the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination,

*Recalling also* Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002 and 1402 (2002) of 30 March 2002,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

*Reaffirming* the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, relevant United Nations resolutions and declarations, and the provisions of international covenants and instruments relating to the right to self-determination as an international principle and as a right of all peoples in the world, and emphasizing that this jus cogens norm of international law is a basic prerequisite for achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

*Deploing* the plight of millions of Palestine refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted from their homes, and expressing deep regret about the fact that more than half of the Palestinian people continue to live in exile in refugee camps throughout the region and in the diaspora,

*Affirming* the applicability of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources to the Palestinian situation as an integral component of the right to self-determination,

*Recalling* the conclusion of the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion of 9 July 2004, that the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, which is a right *erga omnes*, is severely impeded by Israel, the occupying Power, through the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which, together with the Israeli settlement enterprise and measures previously taken, results in serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including the forcible transfer of Palestinians and Israeli acquisition of Palestinian land,

*Considering* that the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people is being violated further by Israel through the existence and ongoing expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Noting* that the failure to bring the occupation to an end after 50 years heightens the international responsibility to uphold the human rights of the Palestinian people, and expressing its deep regret that the question of Palestine remains unresolved 70 years since the resolution on partition,

*Reaffirming* that the United Nations will continue to be engaged on the question of Palestine until the question is resolved in all its aspects in accordance with international law,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable, permanent and unqualified right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to live in freedom, justice and dignity and the right to their independent State of Palestine;
2. *Also reaffirms* the need to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in conformity with international law and other internationally agreed parameters, including all relevant United Nations resolutions;
3. *Calls* upon Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately end its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and further reaffirms its support for the solution of two States, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security;
4. *Expresses* grave concern at any action taken in contravention of the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relevant to Jerusalem;
5. *Also expresses grave concern* at the fragmentation and the changes in the demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which are resulting from Israel's continuing construction and expansion of settlements, forcible transfer of Palestinians and construction of the wall, stresses that this fragmentation, which undermines the possibility of the Palestinian people realizing their right to self-determination, is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and emphasizes in this regard the need for respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
6. *Confirms* that the right of the Palestinian people to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources must be used in the interest of their national development, the well-being of the Palestinian people and as part of the realization of their right to self-determination;
7. *Calls upon* all States to ensure their obligations of non-recognition, non-aid or assistance with regard to the serious breaches of peremptory norms of international law by Israel, in particular of the prohibition of the acquisition of territory by force, in order to ensure the exercise of the right to self-determination, and also calls upon them to cooperate further to bring, through lawful means, an end to these serious breaches and a reversal of Israel's illegal policies and practices;
8. *Urges* all States to adopt measures as required to promote the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian

people, and to render assistance to the United Nations in carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Charter regarding the implementation of this right;

9. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

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**2. HRC Resolution “Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, and in the Occupied Syrian Golan” (A/HRC/43/L.37/Rev.1) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.**

*Maldives co-Sponsored the resolution.*

**43/... Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

*Reaffirming* that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other applicable instruments,

*Recalling* relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council, the Security Council and the General Assembly reaffirming, inter alia, the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, including in East Jerusalem,

*Recalling also* Human Rights Council resolution 19/17 of 22 March 2012, in which the Council decided to establish an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the human rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Noting* the accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, and its accession on 2 January 2015 to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

*Reaffirming* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan,

*Recalling* the declarations adopted at the Conferences of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, held in Geneva on

5 December 2001 and 17 December 2014, and reaffirming that States should not recognize as lawful a situation arising from breaches of peremptory norms of international law,

*Affirming* that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population to the territory it occupies constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I to the four Geneva Conventions,

*Recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

*Deeply concerned* that the wall's route has been traced in such a way to include the great majority of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Noting* that the International Court of Justice concluded, inter alia, that the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, had been established in breach of international law,

*Taking note* of the recent relevant reports of the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories and the treaty bodies monitoring compliance with the human rights treaties to which Israel is a party, and the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,

*Recalling* the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,<sup>1</sup>

*Expressing its grave concern* at any action taken by any body, governmental or non-governmental, in violation of the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions relevant to Jerusalem,

*Noting* that Israel has been planning, implementing, supporting and encouraging the establishment and expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967, through, inter alia, the granting of benefits and incentives to settlements and settlers,

*Recalling* the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and emphasizing specifically its call for a freeze on all settlement activity, including so-called natural growth, and the

dismantlement of all settlement outposts erected since March 2001, and the need for Israel to uphold its obligations and commitments in this regard,

*Aware* that Israeli settlement activities involve, inter alia, the transfer of nationals of the occupying Power into the occupied territories, the confiscation of land, the destruction of property, including humanitarian relief items, homes, community infrastructure and projects funded by the international community, the forcible displacement of Palestinian civilians or threat thereof, including Bedouin families, the exploitation of natural resources, the conduct of economic activity for the benefit of the occupying Power, disruption to the livelihood of protected persons, the de facto annexation of land and other actions against the Palestinian civilian population and the civilian population in the occupied Syrian Golan that are contrary to international law,

*Affirming* that the Israeli settlement policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, seriously endanger the viability of the two-State solution, undermining the physical possibility of its realization and entrenching a one-State reality of unequal rights,

*Noting* in this regard that the Israeli settlements fragment the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, into isolated geographical units, severely limiting the possibility of a contiguous territory and the ability to dispose freely of natural resources, both of which are required for the meaningful exercise of Palestinian self-determination, and deeply concerned that the magnitude, persistence and character of the settlement enterprise suggest that the occupation has been established with the intention of making it permanent, in violation of the prohibition of acquisition of territory resulting from the use of force,

*Noting also* that the settlement enterprise and the impunity associated with its persistence, expansion and related violence continue to be a root cause of many violations of the Palestinians' human rights, and constitute the main factors perpetuating Israel's belligerent occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967,

*Deploring in particular* the construction and expansion of settlements by Israel in and around occupied East Jerusalem, including its so-called E-1 plan, which aims to connect its illegal settlements around and further isolate occupied East Jerusalem, the continuing demolition of Palestinian homes and eviction of Palestinian families from the city, the revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the city, and ongoing settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, all of which further fragment and undermine the contiguity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Expressing grave concern* at the continuing construction by Israel of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, in violation of international law, and expressing its concern in particular at the route of the wall in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949, which is causing humanitarian hardship and a serious decline in

socioeconomic conditions for the Palestinian people, fragmenting the territorial contiguity of the Territory and undermining its viability, creating a fait accompli on the ground that could be tantamount to de facto annexation in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949, and making the two-State solution physically impossible to implement,

*Gravely concerned* at all acts of violence, destruction, harassment, provocation and incitement by extremist Israeli settlers and groups of armed settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, agricultural lands and historic and religious sites, and the acts of terror carried out by several extremist Israeli settlers, which are a long-standing phenomenon aimed at, inter alia, displacing the occupied population and facilitating the expansion of settlements,

*Expressing concern* at ongoing impunity for acts of settler violence against Palestinian civilians and their properties, and stressing the need for Israel to investigate and to ensure accountability for all of these acts,

*Aware* of the detrimental impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially as a result of the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources, including the destruction of orchards and crops and the seizure of water wells by Israeli settlers, and of the dire socioeconomic consequences in this regard, which precludes the Palestinian people from being able to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources,

*Noting* that the agricultural sector, considered the cornerstone of Palestinian economic development, has not been able to play its strategic role because of the dispossession of land and the denial of access for farmers to agricultural areas, water resources and domestic and external markets owing to the construction, consolidation and expansion of Israeli settlements,

*Aware* that numerous Israeli policies and practices related to settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, amount to blatant discrimination, including through the creation of a system privileging Israeli settlements and settlers, against the Palestinian people and in violation of their human rights,

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 22/29 of 22 March 2013, in follow-up to the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling also the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which place responsibilities on all business enterprises to respect human rights by, inter alia, refraining from contributing to human rights abuses arising from conflict, and call upon States to provide adequate

assistance to business enterprises to assess and address the heightened risks of abuses in conflict-affected areas, including by ensuring that their current policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures are effective in addressing the risk of business involvement in gross human rights abuses,

Noting that, in situations of armed conflict, business enterprises should respect the standards of international humanitarian law, and concerned that some business enterprises have, directly and indirectly, enabled, facilitated and profited from the construction and growth of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Emphasizing the importance for States to act in accordance with their own national legislation on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law with regard to business activities that result in human rights abuses,

Concerned that economic activities facilitate the expansion and entrenchment of settlements, aware that the conditions of harvesting and production of products made in settlements involve, inter alia, the exploitation of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calling upon all States to respect their legal obligations in this regard, including the obligation to ensure respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention,

Aware that products wholly or partially produced in settlements have been labelled as originating from Israel, and concerned about the significant role that the production and trade of such products plays in helping to support and maintain the settlements,

Aware also of the role of private individuals, associations and charities in third States that are involved in providing funding to Israeli settlements and settlement-based entities, contributing to the maintenance and expansion of settlements,

Noting that a number of business enterprises have decided to disengage from relationships or activities associated with the Israeli settlements owing to the risks involved,

Expressing its concern at the failure of Israel, the occupying Power, to cooperate fully with the relevant United Nations mechanisms, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,

1. Reaffirms that the Israeli settlements established since 1967 in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal under international law, and constitute a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and to economic and social development;

2. Calls upon Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan, to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49 thereof, and to comply with all its obligations under international law and to cease immediately all actions causing the alteration of the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan;

3. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all settlement activities in all the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and in this regard calls for the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions, including, inter alia, resolutions 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 452 (1979) of 20 July 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003 and 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016;

4. Also demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, including to cease forthwith the works of construction of the wall being built in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, to dismantle forthwith the structure therein situated, to repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and to make reparation for the damage caused to all natural or legal persons affected by the construction of the wall;

5. Condemns the continuing settlement and related activities by Israel, including the construction and expansion of settlements, the expropriation of land, the demolition of houses, the confiscation and destruction of property, including humanitarian relief consignments, the forcible transfer of Palestinians, including entire communities, and the construction of bypass roads, which change the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, constitute a violation of international humanitarian law, in particular article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and of international human rights law, and undermine the viability of the two-State solution;

6. Also condemns the declarations made by Israeli officials calling for the annexation of Palestinian land, and reaffirms the prohibition of acquisition of territory resulting from the use of force;

7. Expresses its grave concern at and calls for the cessation of:

(a) The operation by Israel of a tramway linking the settlements with West Jerusalem, which is in clear violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions;

(b) The expropriation of Palestinian land, the demolition of Palestinian homes, demolition orders, forced evictions and “relocation” plans, the obstruction and destruction of humanitarian assistance and the creation of a coercive environment and unbearable living conditions by Israel in areas identified for the expansion and construction of settlements, and other practices aimed at the forcible transfer of the Palestinian civilian population, including Bedouin communities and herders, and further settlement activities, including the denial of access to water and other basic services by Israel to Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in areas slated for settlement expansion, and including the appropriation of Palestinian property through, inter alia, the declaration of

“State lands”, closed “military zones”, “national parks” and “archaeological” sites to facilitate and advance the expansion or construction of settlements and related infrastructure, in violation of Israel’s obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

(c) Israeli measures in the form of policies, laws and practices that have the effect of preventing the full participation of Palestinians in the political, social, economic and cultural life of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and prevent their full development in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip;

8. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power:

(a) To end without delay its occupation of the territories occupied since 1967, which may be contrary to international law, to reverse the settlement policy in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, and, as a first step towards the dismantlement of the settlement enterprise, to stop immediately the expansion of existing settlements, including so-called natural growth and related activities, to prevent any new installation of settlers in the occupied territories, including in East Jerusalem, and to discard its so-called E-1 plan;

(b) To put an end to all of the human rights violations linked to the presence of settlements, especially of the right to self-determination, and to fulfil its international obligations to provide effective remedy for victims;

(c) To take immediate measures to prohibit and eradicate all policies and practices that discriminate against and disproportionately affect the Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, by, inter alia, putting an end to the system of separate roads for the exclusive use of Israeli settlers, who reside illegally in the said territory, the complex combination of movement restrictions consisting of the wall, roadblocks and a permit regime that only affects the Palestinian population, the application of a two-tier legal system that has facilitated the establishment and consolidation of the settlements, and other violations and forms of institutionalized discrimination;

(d) To cease the requisition and all other forms of unlawful appropriation of Palestinian land, including so-called State land, and its allocation for the establishment and expansion of settlements, and to halt the granting of benefits and incentives to settlements and settlers;

(e) To put an end to all practices and policies resulting in the territorial fragmentation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and which are isolating Palestinian communities into separate enclaves and deliberately changing the demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

(f) To take and implement serious measures, including the confiscation of arms and enforcement of criminal sanctions, with the aim of ensuring full accountability for and preventing all acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and to take other measures to guarantee the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians and Palestinian properties in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

(g) To bring to a halt all actions, including those perpetrated by Israeli settlers, harming the environment, including the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely water and land resources, and which pose an environmental, sanitation and health threat to the civilian population;

(h) To cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the occupied Syrian Golan;

9. Welcomes the adoption of the European Union Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the European Union since 2014;

10. Urges all States and international organizations to ensure that they are not taking actions that either recognize, aid or assist the expansion of settlements or the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to continue to actively pursue policies that ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to these and all other illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

11. Reminds all States of their legal obligations as mentioned in the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004 on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including not to recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall, not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by such construction, and to ensure compliance by Israel with international humanitarian law as embodied in the Fourth Geneva Convention;

12. Calls upon all States:

(a) To distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967, including not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in these territories with regard to, inter alia, the issue of trade with settlements, consistent with their obligations under international law;

(b) To implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to take appropriate measures to help to ensure that businesses domiciled in their territory and/or under their jurisdiction, including those owned or controlled by them, refrain from committing, contributing to, enabling or benefiting from the human rights abuses of Palestinians, in accordance with the expected standard of conduct in the Guiding Principles and relevant international laws and standards, by taking appropriate steps in view of the immitigable nature of the adverse impact of their activities on human rights;

(c) To provide guidance to individuals and businesses on the financial, reputational and legal risks, including the possibility of liability for corporate involvement in gross human rights abuses and the abuses of the rights of individuals, of becoming involved in settlement-related activities, including through financial transactions, investments, purchases, procurements, loans, the provision of services, and other

economic and financial activities in or benefiting Israeli settlements, to inform businesses of these risks in the formulation of their national action plans for the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and to ensure that their policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively address the heightened risks of operating a business in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

(d) To increase monitoring of settler violence with a view to promoting accountability;

13. Calls upon business enterprises to take all measures necessary to comply with their responsibilities under the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and relevant international laws and standards with respect to their activities in or in relation to the Israeli settlements and the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to avoid the adverse impact of such activities on human rights, and to avoid contributing to the establishment, maintenance, development or consolidation of Israeli settlements or the exploitation of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

14. Requests that all parties concerned, including United Nations bodies, implement and ensure the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and endorsed by the Human Rights Council through its resolution 22/29, in accordance with their respective mandates;

15. Calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies to take all necessary measures and actions within their mandates to ensure full respect for and compliance with Human Rights Council resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011, on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and other relevant international laws and standards, and to ensure the implementation of the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, which provides a global standard for upholding human rights in relation to business activities that are connected with Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

16. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the consequences of the intensification of settlement activity and other annexation measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around East Jerusalem and the so-called E-1 area, for the contiguity of the Palestinian Territory and their implications for the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people, and to present the report to the Human Rights Council at its forty-sixth session;

17. Decides to remain seized of the matter.

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**3. HRC Resolution “Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem” (A/HRC/43/L.38/Rev.1) considered under Agenda Item 7: Human Rights Situation in Palestine and other Occupied Arab Territories.**

*Maldives co-sponsored the resolution.*

**43/... Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and all relevant conventions, and affirming that these human rights instruments, among others, are applicable to and must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Recalling also* relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

*Taking note* of the recent report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,<sup>1</sup> and other relevant recent reports of the Human Rights Council,

*Stressing* the urgent need for efforts to reverse the negative trends on the ground and to restore a political horizon for advancing and accelerating meaningful negotiations aimed at the achievement of a peace agreement that will bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the resolution of all core final status issues, without exception, leading to a peaceful, just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the question of Palestine, on the basis of international law,

*Noting* the accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions, and its accession on 2 January 2015 to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

*Recalling* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

*Noting in particular* the Court's reply, including that the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

*Reaffirming* the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and deeply concerned at the fragmentation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, through the construction of settlements, settler roads, the wall and other measures that are tantamount to de facto annexation of Palestinian land,

*Emphasizing* the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and reaffirming the obligation of the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention under articles 146, 147 and 148 with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties and to ensure respect for international humanitarian law,

*Stressing* the importance of accountability in preventing future conflicts and ensuring that there is no impunity for violations and abuses, thereby contributing to peace efforts and avoiding the recurrence of violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

*Expressing grave concern* at the continuing violations of international humanitarian law and the systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including that arising from the excessive use of force and military operations causing death and injury to Palestinian civilians, including children and women, and to non-violent, peaceful demonstrators and to journalists, including through the use of live ammunition; the arbitrary detention of Palestinians, some of whom have been detained for decades; the use of collective punishment; the closure of areas; the confiscation of land; the establishment and expansion of settlements; the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949; the forcible displacement of civilians, including of Bedouin communities; the policies and practices that discriminate against and disproportionately affect the Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; the discriminatory allocation of water resources between Israeli settlers, who reside illegally in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the Palestinian population of the said Territory; the violation of the basic right to adequate housing, which is a component of the right to an adequate standard of living; the revocation of residency permits from Palestinians of East Jerusalem and their eviction from their city; the destruction of property and infrastructure, inter alia, homes of Palestinians; the hampering of humanitarian assistance and the destruction of,

inter alia, structures provided as humanitarian aid, contributing to a coercive environment that leads to the forcible transfer of Palestinian civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including when carried out as an act of collective punishment in violation of international humanitarian law; incidents of harassment of and attacks on schoolchildren and attacks on educational facilities by Israeli settlers and as a result of Israeli military action; and all other actions designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Deploring* all conflicts in and around the Gaza Strip and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and elderly persons, the widespread destruction of thousands of homes and of civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and all violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

*Gravely concerned* in particular about the disastrous humanitarian situation and the critical socioeconomic and security situations in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the prolonged continuous closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and from the continuing and vastly negative repercussions of previous Israeli military operations, and about the firing of rockets into Israel,

*Expressing deep concern* at the detrimental impact of continued impediments to the reconstruction process on the human rights situation and on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population, and calling upon the international community to step up its efforts to provide the Gaza Strip with the assistance that it requires,

*Stressing* the need for all parties, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the rapid and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons,

*Stressing also* the need to end immediately the closure of the Gaza Strip and for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population within and into and out of the Gaza Strip, while taking into account Israeli security concerns,

*Expressing deep concern* at the Israeli policy of closures and the imposition of severe restrictions and checkpoints, several of which have been

transformed into structures akin to permanent border crossings, other physical obstacles and a permit regime, which are applied in a discriminatory manner affecting the Palestinian population only and all of which obstruct the freedom of movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian goods, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and impair the Territory's contiguity, violating the human rights of the Palestinian people,

*Convinced* that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts made to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and expressing grave concern at the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

*Deploring* all policies and practices whereby Israeli settlers, who reside illegally in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are accorded preferential treatment over the Palestinian population in terms of access to roads, infrastructure, land, property, housing, natural resources and judicial mechanisms, resulting in widespread human rights violations of Palestinians,

*Expressing deep concern* that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women and elected members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, continue to be detained and held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, lack of proper medical care, denial of family visits and denial of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also at the ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and all reports of torture,

*Recalling* the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), and calling for respect for those rules,

*Recalling also* the prohibition under international humanitarian law of transfers and deportations of civilians from or to occupied territories,

*Deploring* the practice of withholding the bodies of those killed, and calling for the release of the bodies that have not yet been returned to their relatives, in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law,

*Stressing* the need for the protection of human rights defenders engaged in the promotion of human rights issues in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to allow them to carry out their work freely and

without fear of attack, harassment, arbitrary detention or criminal prosecution,

*Convinced* of the need for an international presence to monitor the situation, to contribute to ending the violence and protecting the Palestinian civilian population and to help the parties to implement the agreements reached, and in this regard recalling the positive contribution of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron, and regretting the unilateral decision by Israel not to renew its mandate, thereby dispensing with one of the few established mechanisms for conflict resolution between Israelis and Palestinians, which may therefore have a negative impact on the situation,

*Emphasizing* the right of all people in the region to the enjoyment of human rights as enshrined in the international human rights covenants,

1. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, withdraw from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, so as to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its universally recognized right to self-determination;
2. *Reiterates* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council are illegal and have no validity;
3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation and in breach of the Convention;
4. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, and that it fully respect human rights law and comply with its legal obligations in this regard, including in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions;
5. *Calls for* urgent measures to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994;
6. *Deplors* the persistent non-cooperation of Israel with special procedure mandate holders and other United Nations mechanisms, and calls for full cooperation by Israel with the Human Rights Council and all its special procedures, relevant mechanisms and inquiries, and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

7. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the wall and any other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, all of which have, inter alia, a grave and detrimental impact on the human rights of the Palestinian people and the prospects for a peaceful settlement;
8. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and as demanded by the General Assembly in its resolutions ES-10/15 and ES-10/13, and that it immediately cease the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle forthwith the structure situated therein, repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and make reparation for all damage caused by the construction of the wall, which has had a grave impact on the human rights and the socioeconomic living conditions of the Palestinian people;
9. *Calls upon* Israel to immediately cease any demolitions or plans for demolitions that would result in the forcible transfer or forced eviction of Palestinians, particularly in the vulnerable areas of the Jordan Valley, the periphery of Jerusalem and the South Hebron Hills, to facilitate the return of those Palestinian communities already subjected to forcible transfer or eviction to their original dwellings and to ensure adequate housing and legal security of tenure;
10. *Deplores* the illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem, including the construction of settlements in various areas; the demolition of residential structures, the forced eviction of Palestinian inhabitants and the application of the policy of punitive home demolitions; the ongoing policy of revoking the residency permits of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem through various discriminatory laws; the excavations in and around religious and historic sites; and all other unilateral measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the city and of the territory as a whole, including those stemming from attempts aimed at illegally changing the status quo of holy sites;
11. *Expresses grave concern* at the restrictions imposed by Israel that impede the access of Christian and Muslim worshippers to holy sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls upon Israel to include guarantees for non-discrimination on grounds of religion or belief as well as for the preservation and peaceful access to all religious sites;
12. *Urges* Israel to ensure that water resource allocation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is not discriminatory and does not result in water shortages disproportionately affecting the Palestinian population of the West Bank, and to take urgent steps to facilitate the restoration of the water infrastructure of the West Bank, including in the Jordan Valley, affected by the destruction of the wells of local civilians, roof water

tanks and other water and irrigation facilities under military and settler operation since 1967;

13. *Expresses concern* about the so-called Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People, adopted by the Knesset, currently under judicial review, which has raised further concerns regarding compliance with international law, including the law of occupation, insofar as it applies to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
14. *Also expresses concern* at the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law adopted by the Knesset, which suspends the possibility, with certain rare exceptions, of family reunification between Israeli citizens and persons residing in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, thus adversely affecting the lives of many families;
15. *Reiterates* the need for respect for the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world;
16. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease immediately its imposition of prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including those amounting to a blockade on the Gaza Strip, which severely restricts the freedom of movement of Palestinians within, into and out of Gaza and their access to basic utilities, housing, education, work, health and an adequate standard of living via various measures, including import and export restrictions, that have a direct impact on livelihoods, economic sustainability and development throughout Gaza, aggravating the state of de-development in Gaza, and in this regard calls upon Israel to implement fully the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing in order to allow for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods and for the acceleration of long overdue reconstruction in the Gaza Strip;
17. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where the bombardment of populated areas has caused extensive loss of life and a vast number of injuries, including among thousands of children and women, massive damage and destruction to homes, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, vital infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity networks, religious sites and public institutions, including hospitals and schools, United Nations facilities, and agricultural lands, the large-scale internal displacement of civilians, and the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians in the context of protests in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip;

18. *Also condemns* the firing of rockets against Israeli civilian areas resulting in loss of life and injury, while encouraging an end to all actions contrary to international law;
19. *Reiterates* the responsibility of Israel, the occupying Power, to respect the right to health of all persons within the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to facilitate the immediate, sustained and unfettered passage of humanitarian relief, including the access of medical personnel, their equipment, transport and supplies to all areas under occupation, including the Gaza Strip, and the granting of exit permits for patients in need of medical treatment outside the Gaza Strip, and stresses the need for the unhindered passage of ambulances at checkpoints, especially in times of conflict;
20. *Urges* Member States to continue to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip;
21. *Calls upon* Israel to end all harassment, threats, intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders and civil society actors who peacefully advocate for the rights of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including by cooperating with United Nations human rights bodies, and underscores the need to investigate all such acts, to ensure accountability and effective remedies, and to take steps to prevent any further such threats, attacks, reprisals or acts of intimidation;
22. *Expresses deep concern* at the conditions of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including minors, in Israeli jails and detention centres, calls upon Israel to explicitly prohibit torture, including psychological torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, demands that Israel, the occupying Power, fully respect and abide by its international law obligations towards all Palestinian prisoners and detainees in its custody, expresses its concern at the continued extensive use of administrative detention, calls for the full implementation of the agreement reached in May 2012 for a prompt and independent investigation into all cases of death in custody, and calls upon Israel to immediately release all Palestinian prisoners, including Palestinian legislators, detained in violation of international law;
23. *Calls for* urgent attention to be paid to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails, and also calls for respect for the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);
24. *Demands* that Israel cease its policy of transferring prisoners from the Occupied Palestinian Territory into the territory of Israel, and respect fully its obligations under article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention;
25. *Urges* Israel to ensure that any arrest, detention and/or trial of Palestinian children is in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

including by refraining from holding criminal proceedings against them in military courts that, by definition, fall short of providing the necessary guarantees to ensure respect for their rights and that infringe upon their right to non-discrimination;

26. *Emphasizes* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and the promotion of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;
  27. *Urges* all States and the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination, as a matter of urgency, in the light of the onset of the fiftieth year of the Israeli occupation and the continued denial and violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people;
  28. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the allocation of water resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to recommend measures to ensure the implementation of equitable access to safe drinking water in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with international law, and to present the report to the Human Rights Council at its forty-eighth session;
  29. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.
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**4. HRC Resolution “Ensuring Accountability and Justice for all Violations of International law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem” (A/HRC/43/L.36/Rev.1) considered under Agenda Item 2: Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.**

*Maldives co-sponsored this resolution.*

**43/... Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Recalling the relevant rules and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, which is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,*

*Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other human rights covenants, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,*

*Recalling further the statement of 15 July 1999 and the declarations adopted on 5 December 2001 and 17 December 2014 at the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, at which the High Contracting Parties reaffirmed, inter alia, their commitment to uphold their obligation to ensure respect for the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,*

*Recalling* its relevant resolutions, including resolutions S-9/1 of 12 January 2009, 19/17 of 22 March 2012, S-21/1 of 23 July 2014 and S-28/1 of 18 May 2018,

*Recalling also* the reports of the independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,<sup>1</sup> the independent commission of inquiry

on the 2014 Gaza conflict,<sup>2</sup> the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,<sup>3</sup> and the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,<sup>4</sup>

*Recalling further* the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

*Recognizing* the work of Palestinian, Israeli and international civil society actors and human rights defenders in documenting and countering violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Affirming* the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and reaffirming the obligation to ensure the protection of civilians in armed conflict,

*Gravely concerned* by reports regarding serious human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law, including possible war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the findings of the independent international commissions inquiry, fact-finding missions and the boards of inquiry convened by the Secretary-General,

*Condemning* all violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, and appalled at the widespread and unprecedented levels of destruction, death and human suffering caused in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Stressing* the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, and affirming that this is necessary in order to uphold human rights and international law,

*Deploring* the non-cooperation by Israel with all Human Rights Council fact-finding missions and independent commissions of inquiry, and its refusal to grant access to and cooperate with international human rights bodies and a number of United Nations special procedures seeking to investigate alleged violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

*Regretting* the lack of implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports of the independent commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions, which follows a pattern of lack of implementation of recommendations made by United Nations mechanisms and bodies,

*Alarmed* that long-standing systemic impunity for international law violations has allowed for the recurrence of grave violations without consequence, and stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

*Regretting* the lack of progress in the conduct of domestic investigations in accordance with international law standards, and aware of the existence of numerous legal, procedural and practical obstacles in the Israeli civil and criminal legal system contributing to the denial of access to justice for Palestinian victims and of their right to an effective judicial remedy,

*Emphasizing* the need for States to investigate and prosecute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, to end impunity, to uphold their obligations to ensure respect and to promote international accountability,

*Noting* the accession by the State of Palestine on 2 January 2015 to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

*Recognizing* the importance of the right to life and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association to the full enjoyment of all human rights,

1. *Calls* upon all duty bearers and United Nations bodies to pursue the implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports of the independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict, the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, in accordance with their respective mandates;

2. *Notes* the importance of the work of the independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the independent commission of inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict, the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, and of the information collected regarding grave violations in support of future accountability efforts, in particular information on alleged perpetrators of violations of international law;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure that all those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law are held to account through appropriate, fair and independent national or international criminal justice mechanisms, and to ensure the provision of effective remedy to all victims, including full reparations, and stresses the need to pursue practical steps towards these goals to ensure justice for all victims and to contribute to the prevention of future violations;

4. *Stresses* that all efforts to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be grounded in respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and should ensure credible and comprehensive accountability for all violations of international law in order to bring about sustainable peace;

5. *Takes note* of the conclusion by the International Criminal Court of its preliminary examination into the situation in Palestine on 20 December 2019, with the determination that all statutory criteria under the Rome Statute for the opening of an investigation had been met, emphasizes the importance of respecting the Court's mandate and the Prosecutor's independence, and calls upon the parties concerned to cooperate fully with any investigation that may be opened;

6. *Denounces* all acts of intimidation, threats and delegitimization directed at human rights organizations, civil society actors and human rights defenders involved in documenting and countering violations of international law and impunity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calls upon all States to ensure their protection;

7. *Condemns* the use of unlawful lethal and other excessive force against civilians, including against civilians with special protected status under international law, who pose no imminent threat to life;

8. *Calls* upon all parties to ensure that future demonstrations remain peaceful and to abstain from actions that could endanger the lives of civilians;

9. *Calls* upon all States to promote compliance with international law and all High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to respect, and to ensure respect for, international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in accordance with article 1 common to the Geneva Conventions, to fulfil their obligations under articles 146, 147 and 148 of the said Convention with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and the responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties, including by ensuring that they do not become involved in internationally unlawful conduct, and to assess the potential that arms could be used to commit or facilitate a serious violation of international humanitarian or human rights law;

10. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on how all parties can fulfil their obligations in implementing the recommendations reviewed by the High Commissioner in 2017,<sup>5</sup> including measures of accountability and legal measures to be taken by states to ensure respect by Israel, and all other relevant parties, of their obligations under international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem, and to present a report to the Council at its forty-sixth session, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

11. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.