



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

MALDIVES

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**Statement by
the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations
at the Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba
15 May 2023**

1. The Maldives extends its appreciation to the **President of the General Assembly**, for convening today's meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Palestinian Nakba. The first time, a commemorative meeting has been held on Palestinian Nakba, after the adoption of resolution 77/23 in 2022. Despite all these decades of suffering, this is a momentous victory of still a painful memory.
2. We take this opportunity to also express our appreciation towards the important work done by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and to the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations.
3. The Maldives aligns its statement with the statement delivered by Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan, in his role as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as the Permanent Representative of Cuba in his role as the Chair of the Group of 77 and China. We supplement this shared stance with the following points, reflecting our national position.

Mr. President,

4. As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of Palestinian Nakba, it is important to reflect on the continued injustice and suffering of the Palestinian people. The situation is as bleak and dire as ever. Or worse, exacerbated. Since 1948, the Israeli forces have expanded their territories, by demolishing and confiscating Palestinian homes, schools, properties, and infrastructure in a systematic way and violating several international laws and humanitarian laws. Sadly, policy of territorial expansion, has resulted in mass displacement, ethnic uprooting and the death of thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians, including women and children. They have been denied of their legitimate right to their own homes turning them refugees in their own land.
5. The Government of Maldives strongly condemns illegal acts of Israel in the Occupied territories. Our delegation is concerned that these actions continue to hinder the work



-2-

towards a lasting solution to the conflict as well as the peace and stability in the region. We also reiterate our call for the complete lifting of the illegal blockade imposed in the Gaza Strip, end all illegal activities in Gaza, and to assist Palestinian people. We must not ignore the decades-long suffering of the Palestinian people. It is to date, the longest unresolved issue on our agenda.

Mr. President,

6. The Government of Maldives reaffirm our commitment and unconditional support to the Palestinian people in their pursuit to attain their inalienable national rights, including the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital and the right to self-determination. It is our collective responsibility to assist the Palestinian people, including by providing vital support for UNRWA and other agencies working on the ground to assist the Palestinian people.
7. We call on the international community of its responsibilities to defend and apply international law and order equally to all countries; to ensure accountability for the crimes committed towards the Palestinians; and to put an end to these atrocities to correct the historical injustice.

Mr. President,

8. Peace for the Palestinian people is long overdue. Today, as we commemorate, the 75th anniversary of Palestinian Nakba, the Maldives reiterates its unwavering support to stand firmly and resolutely with the Palestinian people until such time as an independent, sovereign, and viable Palestinian State is established.

I thank you, Mr. President