



C

MALDIVES

Ref No. GA72/CM2-15/33

[Check Against Delivery]

Second Committee

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

**Statement by Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed,
Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the UN
23 October 2017**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for the comprehensive report submitted for consideration under this agenda item, affirming continued and escalation of discriminatory practices and policies exercised by Israeli authorities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan in grave violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Mr. Chair,

Freedom, independence, and national sovereignty are values on which the UN was founded, and these are values we expect every member of this Organisation to promote and uphold. We take a pledge to defend these values even when it is most inconvenient to do so. Yet these values are often violated, and violated most profoundly in the Occupied Palestine and the Syrian Golan.

At the core of the 2030 Agenda is the belief that there can be no development without peace and the right over your land, over your natural resources. It is for this reason that we continue to discuss the issue of permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestine, and for Syria in the Syrian Golan, over their natural resources. In the case of Palestine, planning and zoning policies that are discriminatory and laws that restrict people to their right to land and natural resources by the Occupying Power, Israel, has, for so many years, deprived Palestinians of their right to development.

Mr. Chair,



-2-

Conditions in the occupied Palestine and the Syrian Golan will not improve without adherence to the principles of inadmissibility of acquiring land by force, and non-discrimination, as enshrined in the UN Charter. The Maldives reiterates its strong and steadfast support for the rights of Palestine, including the need for a two-state solution, as a fundamental step towards safeguarding the human rights of the Palestinian people and providing them with the right to self-determination.

The Maldives condemns the continued use of force and unlawful killings by Israeli forces, ill treatment towards the large number of Palestinian detainees, including minors, in an environment where there is no proper accountability for torture and ill treatment. We remain concerned that Israel has also intensified punitive demolitions of Palestinian homes. This, together with the so-called 'Regularization Law' that was passed by the Israeli Parliament in February 2017, and the declaration of vast amounts of land in the West Bank as 'State Land' is forcing displacement of Palestinian population.

The Maldives calls on Israel to strictly abide by the Security Council Resolution 2334 of 2016, which demands Israel to immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem. In this landmark Resolution, the Security Council made it crystal clear that it will not recognise any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the two sides through negotiations.

Respecting for, and abiding by, the Security Council resolution will benefit Israel, as much as it does for Palestine. Let the rule of law prevail, and return the lands and the resources in the occupied Palestine and the occupied Syrian Golan to their rightful owners.

I thank you.
