



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

MALDIVES

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**Statement by
Lauza Ali, Counsellor
Republic of Maldives to the United Nations
at the Sixth Committee
on Agenda Item 114: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism
October 2021, New York**

Thank you, Madam Chair,

1. Our sincere congratulations to you and to the distinguished Members of the Bureau. We look forward to working with you, and I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the work of the Sixth Committee. We would also like to thank the Secretary-General for the Report submitted under this agenda item.

Madam Chair,

2. The Maldives condemns and denounces all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestation. Terrorism is a collective adversary, whose reach extends beyond national borders to threaten us all, wherever we are. The violence of extremism is not limited in its impact either; it wreaks havoc on individuals, families, and entire population. Because of these characteristics, terrorism cannot be fought head-on by our militaries, but instead requires a multi-faceted approach that seeks to conquer the ideologies that fuel these extreme acts.

Madam Chair,



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3. We are fully conscious of the potential threats that violent extremism poses to our vulnerable tourism-based economy. Given this situation, the Maldives passed the *Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Act* in 2014, and passed and ratified the *Prevention of Terrorism Act* in 2015, which lead to the establishment of the National Counter Terrorism Centre in 2016. This Centre serves as the principal adviser to the President and the National Security Council on issues related to terrorism and violent extremism. It is also the national focal point for all counter-terrorism related matters. Additionally, under the anti-terrorism legislation act, Maldivians traveling to fight in wars in foreign lands are considered as serious criminals

Madam Chair,

4. We understand that the causes behind terrorism are often complex. As such, we aim to tackle violent extremism through a “whole-of-society” approach, through our National Strategy on Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism. This strategy outlines our approach to prevent violent extremism in the Maldives, by building a more cohesive society, and strengthening and empowering more resilient communities. It addresses miscommunication and stigma through positive messaging for solidarity, while enhancing inclusive dialogue to counter the rhetoric of hate speech, xenophobia and related intolerances. We aim to teach our children values of respect and tolerance but we must also ensure that we provide our youth with opportunities to realise their fullest potential.



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5. As a country where Islamic faith defines most aspects of our life and culture, we continue to maintain a policy of moderation and openness. Islam has always been a religion of peace and tolerance and there is no place for hatred and violence .

Madam Chair,

6. As our President, His Excellency Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, outlined in last year's High Level Meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the Maldives has proactively engaged with our international partners on counter terrorism. Multilateralism is crucial to addressing the interlinked and ever-evolving nature of terrorism, and we will not overcome this threat to our collective security without strong partnerships. The Government of Maldives continues to work closely with UNODC to build capacity and share information and best practices in the region. Maldives also remains in consultation with our regional counterparts on the Roadmap on the establishment of a South Asia Network on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

Madam Chair,

7. The fight against terrorism is a fight to defend our way of life, and the freedoms and liberties that we all hold so dear. I assure you that the Government of Maldives remains committed to cooperating with regional and international partners to protect the progress that we have all worked so tirelessly to achieve on this issue.

I Thank you, Madam Chair.



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