



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

MALDIVES

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[Check Against Delivery]

Statement by Ms. Lauza Ali, Counsellor
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations
at Six Committee Agenda Item 112:
Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism
3 October 2022, New York

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

We would like to express our appreciation to you and to the distinguished members of the Bureau. 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. We look forward to working with you.

Mr. Chair,

1. The Maldives reiterates its firm condemnation of terrorism in all forms and manifestations. At an international level, terrorism threatens peace, security and development. At a national level, it also poses a significant threat to Maldives' vulnerable tourism-based economy. Following a zero-tolerance policy against these acts, our Government continues to engage across different sectors through a nation-wide approach to keep building a resilient and peaceful society.

2. The Maldives has passed the "Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Act" in 2014 and the "Prevention of Terrorism Act" in 2015, which led to the establishment of the National Counter Terrorism Centre in 2016. The Centre was created as part of the Maldives' holistic response to terrorism and violent extremism. The Centre



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has adopted the “National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism” and the “National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism 2020-2024”. Acknowledging that the causes behind terrorism are often complex, our strategy aims to prevent violent extremism by building a more cohesive society and by strengthening and empowering our communities.

3. To do so, the Maldives follows a “no one left behind” approach. The Maldives makes continuous efforts to empower community leaders, especially the youth and women. The Maldives believes that women play a major role in peacebuilding and that gender perspectives are an important part of the preventive process. This perspective allows the Maldives to address miscommunication and stigma by promoting solidarity and enhancing inclusive dialogue to counter the rhetoric of hate speech, xenophobia and intolerance.

4. The Islamic faith defines most aspects of our life and culture. Islam has always been a religion of peace and tolerance and there is no place for hatred and violence. The Maldives will remain a moderate, progressive, and tolerant Muslim country. Earlier this year, a nation-wide campaign called the “National Moderation Campaign” was launched, in an effort to address the issue of extremist ideologies. With the support of religious scholars, the campaign aims to educate those who harbour and spread extremist ideologies and commit heinous crimes in the name of religion or against it.

Mr. Chair,



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5. The Maldives has proactively engaged with its international and regional partners on counterterrorism. Multilateralism is crucial to addressing the interlinked and ever-evolving nature of this matter and we will not overcome this threat to our collective security without strong alliances. The Government of Maldives continues to work closely with UNODC to build capacity and share information and best practices in the region. In addition, the Maldives has recently welcomed the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism and keeps active collaboration with the regional Colombo Security Conclave.

Mr. Chair,

6. To conclude, the fight against terrorism is a fight to defend the peace and security of the international community, and the freedoms and liberties that we hold so dear. The Maldives remains highly committed to cooperating with its regional and international partners to keep building a safer world, for all of us and for the future generations.

I thank you, Mr. Chair