



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

MALDIVES

Statement by
Saadhin Mohamed Rasheed,
First Secretary
at the General Discussion on Crime Against Humanity
of the Sixth Committee

1. Thank you, Chair
2. At the outset, let me congratulate you and the bureau for your successful election. You can certainly count on the support of my delegation in the work of the sixth committee.
3. Our collective conscious as captured in resolution 77/249 is that crimes against humanity “deeply” disturbs us.
4. In that resolution and the resolutions which preceded it, we further recognized the need to both prevent and punish such crimes.
5. However, despite this concern, which can even be traced back to the origins of the UN Charter, recent history demonstrates that the legal framework in place is not adequate to act as an effective deterrent against crimes against humanity being committed.
6. To that end, my delegation extends its appreciation to the International Law Commission, for taking the first steps towards the formulation of a stand-alone Convention, by providing the draft Articles on the “Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity”.
7. Even though in principle, my delegation supports the formulation of a Convention which seeks to strengthen and complement the existing legal framework and its ability to provide justice to victims of such crimes, it is incumbent upon us to ponder in light of the acts of Israel, what value addition would a new Convention bring to the lex lata on this area of international law?
8. The Maldives fully supports any and all international efforts to strengthen the legal instruments that protect lives and promote fundamental human rights. But we have to ask the question: is it the lack of laws or the lack of will, political will, that is preventing us from taking action to stop the on-going genocide and crimes against humanity being committed by Israel.



9. We do have a strong international legal instrument for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
10. Proceedings have been initiated against Israel under the Convention by South Africa, to which the Maldives has also submitted a declaration of intervention, where we have detailed Israel's flagrant breaches of the Convention. The International Court of Justice has also rendered orders against Israel. And still Israel continues to act with impunity and the commission of genocide persists even as I speak.
11. The existence of the Convention alone did not stop the murder of 41,870 Palestinians out of which 16,765 are children.
12. Nor does the Convention alone, act as a deterrent against the State which commits genocide, nor does it act as a moral guide for States which facilitate the State in question despite the recent advisory opinion of the ICJ.
13. This is the backdrop against which any Convention in relation to "Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity" must be consolidated. And it will only add value to the existing legal regime if it is fit for purpose. In that it must work as an effective deterrent and punishment mechanism.
14. The Maldives will always be ready to cooperate with all Member States and relevant organs and agencies of the UN to formulate any framework which protects the international family and we reiterate our appreciation to the ILC for its efforts in this endeavor.

I thank you.