**2**9th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**15 - 26 January 2018, Geneva**

**Review of Israel**

**23 January 2018**

Statement by:

Her Excellency Dr Hala Hameed, Ambassador |

Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Maldives takes note of the Israeli delegation’s presentation today.

The Maldives notes Israel’s reforms in the administration of juvenile justice by the adoption of orders providing safeguards for children, but we also note that these reforms have been implemented neither effectively nor equally in regard to innocent Palestinian children who still experience arbitrary arrests, detention, and violence against them by Israeli secureity forces.

The Maldives takes note of Israel’s ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but remains concerned that the illegal occupation of the State of Palestine and the blockade and closure of Gaza obstructs the rights of Palestinians with disabilities to freedom of movement and access to necessary resources and services.

The Maldives makes the following recommendations to Israel:

1. Remove restrictions on the freedom of movement of residents of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and facilitate access to necessary medical services and resources.
2. Strengthen protections for Palestinian children by halting military proceedings against them and applying fully the Fourth Geneva Convention to this vulnerable group.
3. Discontinue the occupation and expansion of illegal settlements established in the West Bank and East Jerusalem which violate the basic rights of Palestinian people.

Thank you, Mr. President.