MALDIVES

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Sixth Committee

Agenda Item 85: Rule of Law

Statement by Mr Jeffrey Salim Waheed,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations

United Nations, New York, 15 October 2015

Thank you Mr Chair,

It is an honour to speak on behalf of the Republic of the Maldives on the Rule of Law and its implications at the national and international levels. I wish to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities.

As we mark the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations, it is important to highlight that the rule of law is the foundation upon which the principles and objectives of this organization is based. At the time of the Maldives application for UN membership, questions were raised as to whether a small state like ours could effectively contribute and be a viable member of the United Nations. It has been 50 years since then, and indeed, we have come a long way. As the Maldives celebrates 50 years of UN Membership this year, the nation has demonstrated its significance and relevance in the community of nations, having been established on a foundation of equality, justice and respect for the Rule of Law.

The Maldives places unmistakable faith in the notion that all Member States have a valuable role to play in the international community. Today, the Maldives sits as an active member on the Human Rights Council, having attained the seat in 2010. As the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, the Maldives has had the honour of leading the voice of the SIDS in key development negotiations that chart out the global development framework for a sustainable future. But nowhere has our efforts been more prominent, than in our advocacy on climate change; having raised the alarm bells of global warming way back in 1987, and having led the change in the global mind-set on this crucial subject.

Mr Chair,

Our commitment to equitable representation, fundamental rights, and unqualified justice begins at home. The Maldives Constitution of 2008, stipulates the separation of the three powers of the State, and the establishment of independent institutions to ensure accountability, and guarantees basic fundamental rights freedoms and rights for its citizens.

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