



## Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations

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**Statement by His Excellency Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed  
Permanent Representative the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations:**

### **General Debate of the First Committee**

08 October 2010, New York

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by congratulating you, and the other members of the Bureau on your election to the Chairmanship of the First Committee. I would like to assure you of my delegation's full support in the work ahead. Let me also take this opportunity to thank Mr Sergio Duarte, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in their efforts to support the work of the Committee.

Mr Chairman,

The Maldives reaffirms its belief that international efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation should always remain a top priority on the international agenda. We strongly believe, that the ultimate objective of such efforts should focus on the collective realization of a world free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

Although great strides have been made this year, including the successful conclusion of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the Washington Nuclear Security Summit and the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, much more needs to be done to further reduce the threat of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction.

We welcome the recent efforts by the Russian Federation and the United States, in signing the new START Treaty in April as a fundamental step towards the reduction of strategic nuclear arms by both countries.

Mr Chairman,

The Maldives fully support the current efforts being undertaken to establish nuclear weapons free zones and zones of peace, with of view of strengthening stability and thriving towards greater prosperity in a

world free from the threat of nuclear annihilation. In this regard, we would like to underline the importance of confidence building measures both at regional and sub-regional levels as fundamental toward establishing such zones.

Since the Maldives became a member of the United Nations, we have always tried to impress upon the international community on the various vulnerabilities facing small states like ours. Small states often do not have the resources nor the means to defend themselves from the emerging threats, including the many and varied forms of international terrorism and activities of organized crime. The continued scourge of terrorism is particularly alarming when seen in the context of the spread of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction. With our collective efforts, the international community must ensure that such a frightening and very real possibility do not materialise.

We maintain that multilateralism should be the main conduit of international cooperation against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. For small states, assistance in implementing arms control measures, treaty implementation mechanism and the exchange of information functions as an important cornerstone in complying with existing international instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr Chairman,

The Maldives has gone through a total transformation of its legal, political and security institutions in the past four years. The formulation of necessary policies governing arms control relating to national safeguards and measures to increase compliance with our international obligations are already taking place. Furthermore, new doctrines on regional cooperation and increased efforts to safeguard the transit routes to deter and prevent the transfer and acquisition of small arms and light weapons have been established. We fully hope that these measures would further strengthen the domestic law enforcement capabilities to reflect our political will as a responsible member of the international community.

Mr Chairman,

The Maldives remains committed to the realistic dream of general and complete disarmament. We are now party to the major disarmament treaties and conventions including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. Our participation in these conventions clearly signifies our unequivocal support of the twin pillars of international disarmament and non-proliferation of WMDs. We believe that a world free of nuclear weapons is a secure one for all states, large and small.

Thank you, Mr Chairman