



MALDIVES

GA75/CM6-2/23

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Statement by

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At the Sixth Committee

**On Agenda Item 86: The Rule of Law at the National and
International Levels**

22 October 2020, New York



Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Maldives continues to investigate and seek redress for human rights abuses, murders and enforced disappearances to address systemic corruption at all levels of Government.

Good governance depends not only on securing redress for such crimes, but on preventing them from ever occurring. To that end, President Solih has ratified legislation providing guidelines for the ethics and independence of members of independent institutions such as the Anti-



the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) against members of the Judiciary. JSC has been pursuing their mandate vigorously, by attending to complaints and taking appropriate actions. The improvement in public confidence towards the functions of the JSC is evident by the fact that 114 complaints were submitted to the JSC in 2019, compared to only 9 in 2018. The JSC has also initiated the process of conducting a complete appraisal of all judges in the Maldives, which will commence this year.



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corruption and a guarantee of fundamental rights and freedoms for all. Our Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023 adopts these priorities and in September, the Cabinet discussed how best to revise its priorities and schedule to ensure that the Government can deliver on its key promises to our citizens, while accounting for delays caused by the pandemic. Recent legislation has increased the independence and responsibility of our Elections Commission and provided further guidelines for the decentralization of our Government. In this regard, the judicial committee of the Parliament is currently reviewing a bill on the criminalisation of unexplained wealth.

Mr. Chairman,

The rule of law only truly exists if it can be relied upon by all citizens without exception. The Maldives therefore continues to promote gender equality, while eliminating gender-based violence and discrimination. The Decentralisation Act requires that women hold at least one third of all local council seats. We have also achieved gender parity among the



The Maldives strives to promote the rule of law not only within its borders, but in the international community as well, and we remain fully committed to fulfilling our international obligations. To that end, the Child Rights Protection Act and the Juvenile Justice Act were recently enacted to further align our domestic law with our international human rights obligations.

By ratifying provisions for the individual communication procedures under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Maldives has improved access to justice for its citizens and committed to being held accountable by the international community for any future violations. The Government has also received approval from the Parliament and is in the process of ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.



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I thank you.
