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ORAL STATEMENT
ITEM 10: SUPPORTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

**RENEW EMINENT EXPERTS' MANDATE IN YEMEN AND FULFILL HUMAN RIGHTS
PLEDGES IN THE MALDIVES**

UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-ninth session
10-28 September 2018

Mr. President,

This Session, under Item 10, the Council considers the report of the Group of Eminent Experts on **Yemen**. My movement is deeply concerned about the situation in Yemen, the suffering of its people, and the scale and scope of violations and impunity that currently prevails. We thank the Group of Eminent Experts for their work and are convinced of the imperative to renew the Group's mandate.

The Council is now faced with a simple choice: renew the mandate of this Group, established by consensus just last year, or let the mandate expire.

Let there be no mistake in the nature of the choice that faces this Council. Let there be no mistake about how Member States should view the choice before them. Let there be no mistake about how Member States will be evaluated for the choice that they make.

The situation in Yemen, by objective criteria, is worse than it was last year at this time. The Council's consideration of Yemen is at a more advanced stage than it was last year at this time. Now is the time to renew the mandate, to allow the Group of Experts to expand and build upon their work and reporting with respect to all parties to the conflict, and in a manner that is parallel with and complementary to the improving work of the Yemeni National Commission.

Mr President,

The change of government in **the Maldives** presents a huge opportunity to break with the repression and human rights violations of the past and chart a fresh course where human rights are at the heart of the policies and action of the new government.

The joint opposition made several pledges relating to human rights. Now, it is time to begin to translate those words into action including by releasing people who were wrongly imprisoned such as politicians Faris Maumoon and Ahmed Mahloof, repealing repressive laws, and creating an environment conducive to full respect for human rights and where civil society can flourish.

Thank you, Mr. President.