# Maat for Peace' statement on the Intersessional seminar on the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights

Mr. President,

Developing countries seeking to recover their funds face several challenges, especially with regard to the need to promote and strengthen public governmental institutions and to develop financial and accounting systems that contribute to rising levels of transparency and accountability.

Also, the absence of a near-complete informational map on the funds and properties of former senior state officials abroad, is one of the most important challenges facing the official authorities concerned with recovering those funds.

For example, some Arab countries do not have an information card that lists the money and properties of former officials, in addition to not knowing the identity of the countries to which the money was smuggled.

Also, many international banks refuse to disclose their customers' accounts to preserve the principle of privacy.

The multiplicity of levels of dealing with the authorities concerned with the recovery of funds is also another challenge complicating the process.

Therefore, Maat for Peace recommends the following:

* The Human Rights Council must address the negative impact of looted money flows on human rights, and review a number of indicators on the extent of the impact of illegal money flows on the economies of the African continent and Arab countries in particular.
* Countries must abide by the UN Convention against Corruption and ensure that cases of looted funds are not subject to statute of limitations.
* Establishing an international court to recover looted and smuggled funds, as the crimes of corruption, looting of public money and illegitimate gain are not subject to a statute of limitations.
* Establishing an international department specialized in confronting organized crime and money smuggling to assist countries in providing them with information, maintaining a database on organized gangs and their internationally known activity, and providing them with all advanced technological means.