

## APPENDIX2

Statement by H.E. Ms. Dunya Maumoon Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Maldives Annual Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary General 02 March 2012

Thank you Madam Chair,

The Maldives would like to thank the High Commissioner for her statement and her annual report.

As the High Commissioner notes, in November last year we were honoured to welcome her to the Maldives to take stock of the country's progress in the field of human rights.

The Government shares the High Commissioner's concern at developments since her visit, most notably the arbitrary arrest of a Criminal Court judge by the army, and widespread disturbances both before and after the resignation of former President Nasheed.

As I mentioned in my speech yesterday, the Maldives undoubtedly stands at a difficult moment in its democratic history, and it is up to politicians from all parties to put aside their differences and work together for the common good. From the Government's side, we have established an independent commission of investigation to look at events surrounding the former President's resignation as well as related violence. We have also invited all parties to join us in a government of national unity, and have established all-party talks designed to find a negotiated solution to the crisis.

Unfortunately, the Maldives Democratic Party has responded to these overtures by disrupting yesterday's official opening of parliament. This is now a very serious situation. If parliament is not open by next week, then it will be impossible for the institution to complete the constitutional and legislative work necessary to resolve the current crisis as per the roadmap agreed by all parties.

Madam President,

The Maldives concurs with the High Commissioner on the importance of the upcoming Rio plus 20 summit in Brazil, and of ensuring the mainstreaming of human rights into the outcomes of that conference. The Maldives will look to contribute to the Rio plus 20 process with this point in mind and wish Brazil every success in the organization of the summit. At this session, the Maldives and friends will table a resolution to establish an independent expert on human rights and environment, and we hope that mandate will also contribute constructively to taking forward the outcomes of Rio.

Madam President,