



MALDIVES

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives delegation would like to convey its sadness at the news conveyed to us today, that Mrs. Arbour has decided not to seek a second term as High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Ms. Arbour's tenure as High Commissioner has coincided with a strong positive evolution in relations between the Maldives Government and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It has also coincided with profound and systemic improvements in human rights protection and promotion in the Maldives and indeed, it is very apparent that the two positive trends are linked.

The Maldives Government's willingness to be open to and to work with the Office of the High Commissioner has been reciprocated through a clear willingness on the part of the Office to assist the Maldives in its human rights and democratic reform programme. The stationing of a Human Rights Advisor in the Maldives, the visits of numerous human rights experts, advice on legislation, and the organisation of human rights training programmes and seminars, are just some examples of this cooperative relationship in action.

We would like to thank Mrs. Arbour for her role in these positive developments.

Mr. President,

The Maldives concurs with the High Commissioner's emphasis on the importance of Treaty Bodies as vehicles for the protection of human rights at the country level. In order to enhance the effectiveness of interaction with Treaty



Bodies, the Maldives is currently in the process of preparing a Common Core Document to streamline and strengthen treaty reporting. We hope to finish the document over the coming months. In this regard, the Maldives delegation would be interested in hearing the High Commissioner's views on the level of uptake of the Common Core Document approach, and also how she would view its future evolution.

Thank you Mr. President.