



*Statement by*

**His Excellency Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed**

**Permanent Representative,  
Republic of Maldives**

*at the*

**Eighth Session**

*of the*

**Human Rights Council of the  
United Nations**

*under*

**Agenda Item 3**

**2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008**





Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives delegation would like to welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers. We also attach great importance to this mandate and its extension.

The Maldives is taking important steps towards separation of powers and establishing credible institutions to strengthen the judiciary. The Government is committed to implementing the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur after his visit to the Maldives in February 2007.

Mr. President,

It is a pleasure for me to inform the Special Rapporteur and the Council, that significant progress has been made in implementing the Special Rapporteur's recommendations. The revised Constitution of the Maldives, once adopted, will set up an Office of Prosecutor General. It will also set up a Supreme Court and a Judicial Service Commission, as recommended by Dr. Despouy. During the transition period to the new Constitution an Interim Supreme Court and an Interim Judicial Services Commission will also be set up. The Maldives is further working closely with the International Bar Association to establish a professional Bar Association in the Maldives, as recommended by Dr. Despouy.





Mr. President,

Let me also take this opportunity to note the high commitment attached by the Government of Maldives to strengthening of the judiciary and the legal profession. In this regard, the government values the recommendations made by Dr. Despouy and reiterate our assurance to their implementation.

The Government of Maldives further attaches great importance to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the whole of the Special Procedures and Mechanisms. We take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude for all the valuable assistance and recommendations that we have received, with which we move forward to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in the Maldives.

Thank you Mr. President.

