



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives**

**at the 8th Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the
“Situation of Human Rights in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo”**

28th November 2008

Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives has watched, with growing concern, the resurgence of violence in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly the province of North Kivu.

The violence has dire consequences for the human rights of people in the region, and these consequences are becoming progressively worse. The Maldives is particularly alarmed at reports of torture, summary execution, sexual violence, and the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

The Maldives expresses its strong support for the efforts of the African Union, the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General, and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in their efforts to secure a long-term peaceful solution to the conflict, particularly through the Goma and the Nairobi processes.

Until such a time, the Maldives urges all parties in the conflict to comply fully with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law.

The Maldives also calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), with support from the wider international community, to intensify their efforts to assist the Government in the promotion and protection of human rights.

International engagement, assistance and support, from both the African region and the wider world, can undoubtedly play an important role in resolving the conflict and in promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of vulnerable people. The Maldives therefore congratulates the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for the invitations it has extended to UN Special Rapporteurs, and expresses its hope that other Special Rapporteurs referred to in Resolution 7/20 paragraph 2 will also be able to visit the country in the near future.

Thank you Mr. President.