



*Statement by*

**His Excellency Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed**

**Permanent Representative,  
Republic of Maldives**

*at the*

**Seventh Session**

*of the*

**Human Rights Council of the  
United Nations**

*under*

**Agenda Item 3**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2008**



Thank you Mr. President,

The Maldives delegation would like to welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, particularly the reference to establishing indicators on violence against women to combat this appalling violation of human rights.

The Maldives is in the process of taking significant strides towards strengthening its national legal framework to provide better safeguards for women and children. In this regard, the Maldives Government has recently amended the regulations on sentencing guidelines in order to provide better safeguards for the victims of sexual abuse, and to prescribe tougher sentencing for perpetrators of sexual abuse including child abuse.

The Government is also currently working on drafting a Bill on domestic violence that will grant security for women who live in abusive environments.

Finally, in order to promote a stronger gender perspective in judicial proceeding, I am pleased to inform the Special Rapporteur that the Maldives recently appointed its first two female judges and first female magistrate to the bench.

Mr. President,

The Government of Maldives is keen to work with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women to further strengthen the legal framework in the Maldives with regard to her mandate. In this regard, and in line with the standing invitation extended by the Government of Maldives to all special



procedures and mechanisms, I would like to invite the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women to visit the Maldives during the course of 2008.

Thank you Mr. President.