



Statement by Permanent Representative of Maldives in Geneva

H E Ms. Iruthisham Adam

**at the 14th Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the situation
of human rights in Cote d'Ivoire since the election of 28 November 2010**

23 December 2010

Thankyou Mr. President

The Maldives has watched, with growing concern, the resurgence of violence in Cote d'Ivoire in the aftermath of the Presidential elections of last month.

The violence has dire consequences for the human rights of Ivorians and for democracy and rule of law in the country.

The Maldives is particularly alarmed at reports of extrajudicial killings and arbitrary detention. It is further concerned at the humanitarian consequences of the current crisis and deplores the loss of life and acts of destruction of property that has occurred in Cote d'Ivoire. The Maldives strongly urges all parties to exercise maximum restraint and put an immediate end to all violence and fully respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Ivorian people.

Free and fair elections are the fundamental measure of any democratic rule. Hence, it is imperative that the integrity of the electoral process is upheld and democracy restored immediately. The Maldives strongly condemns all efforts to undermine the will of the people of Cote d'Ivoire and calls on all stakeholders to respect the outcome of the election as proclaimed by the Independent Electoral Commission and the international observers.

The Maldives also strongly supports the efforts of African Union, ECOWAS, UNOCI and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in ensuring the restoration of democracy in Cote d'Ivoire. Further in this regard, the Maldives supports the efforts of the OIC to engage with Cote d'Ivoire and call on all international and regional stakeholders to continue their efforts through dialogue, and to promote peace, democracy and reconciliation, in accordance with international law and more specifically the Ouagadougou Political Agreements.

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