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MALDIVES

Sixth Committee of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Item 85 - Rule of Law

Statement by:
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Representative of the Maldives Delegation to the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Thank you Mr Chairman,

The Republic of Maldives was one of the first countries in South Asia to adopt a Constitution, having done so in 1932. In our strides towards development, we have had six Constitutions and seven more amendments; all leading up to our 2008 Constitution and the fruition of eight decades of democratic engagement.

The Maldivian democracy is home-grown. That creates a nexus between our long held traditions and universal values of democratic governance. We now have complete separation of powers, independent institutions and methods of horizontal accountability. The path we walk is one that is fraught with hardship and one that necessitates constant vigilance and effort. Our guiding light through this journey is the rule of law.

Mr Chairman,

The Maldives is staunchly and unyieldingly committed to the rule of law. We are committed to instilling a system based on rules and their non-arbitrary application. However, this takes time to cultivate. Though our institutions are young, as in older democracies, they are settling into patterns and traditions that are conducive to a stable and prosperous democratic state. It is the Government's position that further democratic consolidation must proceed organically, without violent disruption or intervention, and through existing avenues of redress. The people of the Maldives are ready for stability.

In recent Presidential, Parliamentary and local elections, the will of the people was made clear. In spite of heated political debate and campaigning, and with extensive foreign scrutiny and involvement, the Maldives was able to hold peaceful elections with voter turnout rates that exceeded 90%, reflecting the capability of our democratic institutions and the will of our people.

The 2013 elections marked a milestone in Maldives' journey, being the second multi-party presidential elections in the country's history. However, elections, a multi-party political system, the separation of powers and independent institutions are only markers along a nation's democratic trajectory.

Mr Chairman,

The Maldives experience shows that democracy cannot be traced in the pages of law, but rather need to be instilled in people's hearts and minds. The only way for a new home-grown democracy to

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Through fostering the value of democratic responsibility, going hand in hand with fundamental human rights, the populous can engage within the confines of the rule of law. This promotes socio-economic development through the provision of a stable environment and a climate of trust