**Australian High Commission**

**Colombo**

25 September 2013

**Statement on Presidential Elections in the Maldives**

The Australian Government welcomes the positive findings of international observers, including the Commonwealth Observer Group, on the conduct of the recent first round of Presidential Elections in the Maldives. These elections are an important step in entrenching democracy following the disputed transfer of power there in February 2012.

Against this background Australia notes the postponement of the second round of Presidential Elections which had been due to occur on Saturday 28 September.

We call on all parties to maintain calm and order and to work together peacefully and cooperatively while this situation is considered by the Supreme Court. It is important that the results of the democratic process are respected.

Australia hopes to see an early resumption of the electoral process, with the second round of elections conducted in a manner that is free, fair and transparent, in accordance with the rule of law, and gives free expression to the will of the people of the Maldives.

The international community will continue to watch developments in the Maldives very closely.

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