

**Australian High Commission**

**Colombo**

**25 July 2017**

**Statement on developments in Maldives**

The Australian High Commission is increasingly concerned by recent actions that the Government of Maldives has taken that undermine democracy and democratic institutions in Maldives.

Legitimate opposition remains a vital component of a healthy democracy, and it is essential that the freedoms of assembly and expression are granted to all.

We urge the President and Government of Maldives to take immediate steps to ensure that the authority and independence of Parliament and the freedoms and rights of its members are restored, and to safeguard the checks and balances which are essential for democracy to flourish.