



## Ministry of External Affairs Government of India

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# Parliamentary elections in Maldives

March 12, 2014

We welcome the commitment expressed by the Government of Maldives to holding the Parliamentary elections as scheduled, on 22 March.

India has consistently supported the strengthening of democratic processes and institutions in the Maldives. In this context, the Government of India has noted with concern the removal of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Elections Commission of Maldives from their positions and deferred prison sentence of the Chairperson.

As a close friend and neighbour of the Maldives, we urge all institutions and political parties in Maldives to respect the rule of law and the Constitution of Maldives. It is our hope that the independence of the Elections Commission is protected and strengthened and the forthcoming Parliamentary elections are held in a free, fair and credible manner, fulfilling the democratic aspirations of the people of Maldives.

New Delhi

March 12 2014

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