



Commonwealth Observer Group

Maldives Presidential Election

8 October 2008

Press Release

Commonwealth team to depart today after first round of the election, but will return for the run-off

The Chair of the Commonwealth Observer Group, the Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur MP, departs from Maldives today, upon completion of the Group's duties for the first round of the election.

Some of the current Observer Group will return for the run-off to be held 28 October 2008. Mr. Arthur will also return to lead the team.

In its Interim Statement of 10 October, the Commonwealth Observer Group stressed the need for all parties to continue their positive and peaceful engagement in the process, and for a level playing field to be provided.

The Group also stressed the need for the Elections Commission to, among other things, address shortcomings in the voter list, and hoped that problems with the distribution of ID cards can be rectified in time for the run-off.

Malé, Maldives
15 October 2008

For media contacts:

Mr. Mark Stevens

Tel: +960 789 9742

E-mail: m.stevens@commonwealth.int