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Permanent Mission of the Maldives
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

URGENT

Ref: GE/PM/186/MISC/2009

15 April 2009

Dear Sir,

I would like to forward herewith a copy of a statement by the Republic of Maldives in support of the independence of the Republic of Kosovo, signed by Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives.

I would also like to inform you that the original of the enclosed statement will be forwarded to you at the earliest.

I would appreciate it if you could kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter and its enclosed statement.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Shazra Abdul Sattar
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Mr. Philippe Couvreur
Registrar of the International Court of Justice
Peace Palace
Carnegieplein 2
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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

15 April 2009

**Statement by the Republic of Maldives in Support of the Independence of the
Republic of Kosovo**

The Republic of Maldives recognizes the independence of the Republic of Kosovo as representing a sui generis case which does not create a precedent. The Maldives believes that the declaration of independence by Kosovo reflected a remedy of last resort that embodied the best prospects for peace and stability in the region. The Maldives also believes that the independence of Kosovo brings a final resolution and an end to the conflicts arising from the violent and non-consensual break-up of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

In reaching these conclusions, the Republic of Maldives considered numerous factors including the history of ethnic cleansing and crimes against Kosovars which constituted grave human rights violations; the extended period of international administration of Kosovo; the proposition of a "final status" for Kosovo in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and the subsequent recommendations of the United Nations Special Envoy on Kosovo; the total breakdown and abandonment of the UN process on the future political status of Kosovo; the evolution of Kosovo both politically and legally, including the special autonomous powers enjoyed by Kosovo within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; the right to national self-determination entrenched in the United Nations Charter; and the fulfillment by Kosovo of the criteria for statehood under international law.

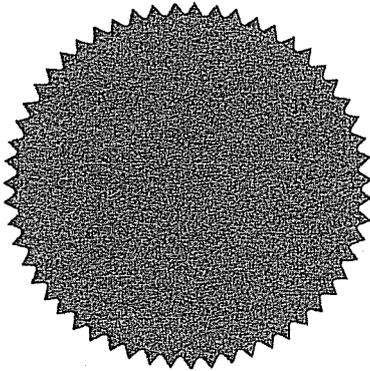
The Republic of Maldives did not take part in the vote in the United Nations General Assembly on 8 October 2008 on the reference to the International Court of Justice for an Advisory Opinion on the legality of the declaration of independence by



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Kosovo. The Resolution appeared to be politically motivated and designed to delay the speed with which the independence of Kosovo was being recognized by the international community. The Maldives took note of the fact that more countries opposed or abstained in the vote on the Resolution than vote in the affirmative.

In recognizing the independence of Kosovo on 19 February 2009, the Maldives also took note of developments within Kosovo during its first year of independence including the provisions made within the Constitutional framework of Kosovo for the protection of the rights of minorities within the Republic of Kosovo. The Maldives further took note of the fact that the Republic of Kosovo enjoyed widespread recognition in the international community as an independent state, including most of its neighbours and states from all continents.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ahmed Shaheed".

Ahmed Shaheed