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United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

Distinguish participants, good afternoon

For a small country like Maldives data collection is time consuming and costly. By the time the data is ready to use, the momentum is lost. We need to look beyond our conventional data collecting means and explore new avenues for data collection; big data, crowd sourcing, satellite imagery etc.

We also need to strengthen our administrative data, and have internet them connected not only to provide quick efficient public services but also address the issues we face in highly dynamic environment in a timely manner.

The SRSs need to play a more pro-active role in the



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planning process. They cannot be comfortable in the 'back bench' position for the 'demand' only. They need to flag emerging trends and influence policy makers to make informed decisions to address the 'trans' trends and emerging issues.

Further more, we need to make data more available, easy available and comprehensible to the everyday people. We need to decode it to a language that is understood by the general public and 'all'.

Data is the key to make the SDGs, data is how we can measure progress and identify what needs to be addressed.

We need resources to be mobilized to enhance capacity of the NSOs and the commitment from the leadership to drive it.

Thank you.