

Country statement: Maldives
APFSD 4 April 2016

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Maldives

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalaam Alaikum.....good morning.

Let me join the other delegates in congratulating the elected officials of the bureau for their valuable contributions and the ESCAP secretariat for organizing this forum with such efficiency.

ESCAP's role in creating a platform for Asia Pacific countries to create dialog and cooperation in implementing and monitoring the SDGs is crucial. We support and greatly value your work.

The Maldives has achieved many of the MDGs, though careful planning and comprehensive development strategies international support. Well-established institutional mechanisms and strong political will, along with assistance from the international community and development partners made this possible. Building and learning from the lessons of experience, we are now committed to work with our partners to further our efforts to achieve the new SDGs.

Integration of SDGs into National Development Plans must not be an end to itself. Adequate support and coordination would be required at all levels domestically and internationally to successfully and timely achievement of these goals. In this regard, the special needs of the vulnerable economies must be carefully considered and addressed. We would also like to urge the importance and relevance of National level consultations including with the parliament, the private sector, civil society and other key social groups such as youth, women, in taking the development agenda forward. In this regard, It is essential to identify country relevance and the need to localize the SDGs to suit the specific needs of the SIDs.

Capacity building and strengthening of national agencies, at national including at grassroots is essential, for effective operationalization and monitoring of SDGs. National focal agencies receive requests to data from various international organizations periodically. This suggests a need for streamlining of coordination between various agencies involved in implementing SDGs. Multiple requests for data and reporting is burdensome due to low capacity and the very limited human resources at national level. A more standardized mechanism to address all SDG related data issues could be a way forward.

With respect to financing development, we promote finding development solutions through greater private sector participation in infrastructure development. To make private projects socially sustainable, the government seeks full and accountable corporate social responsibility built in to such projects.

We are faced with vulnerabilities beyond our control with respect to climate change and external shocks, making development challenges even greater and uncertain. Therefore, we need the continued support of the international community. Measures to mobilize domestic resources and enhance tax revenues can only have limited impact. In this regard, we see ODA as an important means to help countries achieve the SDGs. We would therefore, like to see the significance of ODA elevated from the current level in the roadmap for countries with special needs.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank our development partners including UN agencies, and other donors for their assistance in achieving our development goals and seek their continued participation in the development process of SDGs.