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Embassy of the Republic of Maldives



PREVENT
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

**Intervention at the Eight Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development,
23-26 March 2020
Agenda Item 13: Roundtable 7- SDG 13: Climate Action**

Delivered by: Ms. Fathimath Razana, First Secretary, Embassy of Maldives

Good morning everyone.

Let me begin by extending my thanks to the all the speakers for the excellent conversations and the and the recommendations presented. I will take this opportunity to highlight our progress on Sustainable Development Goal, 13 – Climate Action.

The unique geography, low lying and dispersed nature of our islands, coupled with economic factors such as high import dependency and narrow economic base make Maldives one of the most vulnerable countries, and the threat of the growing climate crisis poses an existential threat to our people. COVID-19 pandemic has halted all the progress we were making at achieving many of the sustainable development goals, fulfilling our commitments in the Paris Agreement and magnified our vulnerabilities, thereby affecting our ability to tackle the climate emergency.

It is crucial for us to align the recovery initiatives with our climate actions and sustainable development agenda in the post-pandemic recovery efforts. The Government of Maldives is focused on emphasizing greener and resilient development initiatives as we build back better. This includes enhancing our adaptation actions to increase resilience of our communities and livelihood. Initiatives such as the Climate Smart Resilient Island initiative launched by President, His Excellency Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in 2019, was then introduced as a way to increase our resilience and reduce vulnerabilities. The government of Maldives has also declared a list of Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) banned for import into the Maldives starting this June. These ambitious initiatives in collaboration with the private sector aims to tackle plastic pollution, harness clean energy sources, protect our waters from illegal fishing and ensure the protection of the marine environment.

Maldives firmly believes that implementation of climate action can only be achieved by the provision of adequate, predictable and sustainable financing from developed countries to developing countries, especially for SIDS. While we are one of the least contributors to the global Green House Gas emission, we are determined to be part of a global solution by committing to achieve a low-emission development and a climate resilient future.



I thank you.