



ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ރިފުޅުކަމުގެ ސަލާމް

Embassy of the Republic of Maldives

**Country Statement to be delivered by H.E. Mr. Ahmed Latheef, Foreign Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maldives
79th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Agenda item 2
15-19 May 2023**

Bismillah alRahman alRahim

Assalaam Alaikum

Excellencies, Distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning/afternoon.

At the outset, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to ESCAP for the very comprehensive study prepared for the consideration of the 79th Commission Session. My government recognizes the challenges we face in building low carbon and climate resilient economies and takes note of the very useful recommendations in the study.

Mr./Madam Chair,

As one of the lowest-lying countries the Maldives has been at the front line facing the impacts of climate change. Climate change continues to be one of the biggest threats the world faces. It is one that is detrimental to our existence. It is a threat multiplier that is all encompassing.

Vulnerable countries like the Maldives, only contribute a miniscule amount to the global carbon emissions. To be precise, we only emit 0.01%. My friends, this isn't fair. We pay the price for the actions of others despite bearing little to no responsibility for it. But we continue to do our part.

The Government of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih places utmost important on tackling the climate crisis. Under the current administration, the Maldives continues to actively advocate on all platforms the need for sustainable, adequate climate financing to address the gaps in climate action and to conduct more climate risk analysis and planning. It is time for our friends and partners in the developed world to fulfill their obligations and deliver on the USD\$100 billion annually.

Mr./Madam Chair,



One of the biggest achievements of addressing climate change during President Solih's administration was passing the Climate Emergency Act. This Act is a guiding light for us to deliver on our goal to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. But we cannot achieve net-zero by ourselves. We need international support. We need partnerships. We need the know-how, and technical and technological support. Above all, we need political will.

Mr./Madam Chair,

The Maldives recognizes the progress made in COP27, especially the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund. But the work is far from complete. This is the time for us to work together, to fully operationalize the Fund. The Maldives will once again work with all partners to ensure that we reap the benefits of the Fund at the earliest.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Climate change is a threat multiplier, exacerbating threats that already exist. For a Small Island Developing Country like the Maldives, this means unique and particular vulnerabilities faced due to our remoteness, our small size and small population. And the inability to achieve economies of scale. Our dependence on single industries and limited fiscal space.

To address these unique challenges, targeted support is required. This is best encapsulated in the Frameworks of support agreed for groups of countries in special situations – for SIDS, this is the SAMOA Pathway. We are looking forward to holding the fourth International Conference on Small Island States next year, where we will once again, shed a light on the particular challenges SIDS face, and renew our commitment to address them.

Mr./Madam Chair,

The reality of our interconnected world is that global challenges require global solutions. Challenges such as climate change cannot be tackled by one country acting alone. We need to act in unison. We need solidarity. And we need to support each other.

The Maldives stand ready – hand extended – joining all of you, in this endeavour.

I thank you.