Statement by
His Excellency Dr Ali Haidar Ahmed, Minister of Housing, Land and Urban Development
9th session of the Committee on Statistics – High-level Segment

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Organizers: United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

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Duration of remarks: 3 minutes

Venue/Format: United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok / In-person

Audience: Heads of NSOs, High-level delegates, UN and other development partners

Length of text: 321

Thank you, Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Members of the Economic and Social Council for Asia and the Pacific

The relentless rise in sea levels and increasing frequency of extreme weather events pose an existential threat to our communities, ecosystems and economies. The Maldives continues to combat these challenges and appreciates the support provided by UN ESCAP in all areas of our development. We appreciate UN ESCAP for their support towards developing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the development of the SEEA road map. We commend UNESCAP's efforts in supporting climate action and sustainable development,

Despite the formidable challenges we face, the Maldives remains committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We recognize UNESCAP's invaluable support in strengthening our statistical capacity through initiatives like big data and open-source platforms such as '.Stat Suite' which enable the efficient production and dissemination of high-quality data. Significant gaps still remain in data availability and capacity, particularly in application of big data techniques and machine learning in demographic, economic and environmental statistics.

Chair,

Looking ahead, the Maldives intends to conduct a registered-based census in 2030, supported by a robust civil registration and vital statistics system. With the support of UNESCAP, we have already made significant strides, including the successful

implementation of a fully online Vital Registration and Statistics (VRS) system. Yet there remains a pressing need for continued capacity building and advocacy to enhance the timeliness and accuracy of the data. We implore UNESCAP to sustain its support in bolstering the Maldives' VRS system.

The Maldives reaffirms its commitment to working with UNESCAP and its member states to build a resilient, sustainable, and prosperous Asia-Pacific region. With just six years remaining for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we emphasize the need to increase funding for statistics, especially for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as building more collaborative partnerships among the member countries in supporting each other.

I thank you.