Good afternoon, everyone.

On behalf of the Maldives delegation, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the substantive report issued for consideration under this agenda item.

Maldives is committed to ensuring that sustainable transport is widely achieved throughout the nation. As such, we have numerous policies in place and in effect to ensure that the infrastructure projects and plans related to the transportation systems in Maldives are driven using environmentally sustainable methods. We plan to implement a zero-emission inter-city public transport system using EV Vehicles and our goal is to reach net-zero by 2030 keeping in line with the pledge of decarbonization and ensure that our responsibility to the global crises is fulfilled.

If we take a look at the aviation sector, the Maldives has now started our journey to implement the Carbon offsetting and reduction scheme in International Aviation (CORSIA). This would enable to monitor and compensate for the emissions that each country is liable to and account for the negative effects emissions globally.

The connectivity of transport, infrastructure, resources and technology is crucial. Right now, the infrastructural changes and transportation links are established under a spatial planning initiative that identifies growth centers to ensure a wholesome solution that would cater to the daily needs of the community to enhance their standard of living.

The Maldives, in conjunction with the GEF fund, is also working on a transport master plan for the years to come, ensuring that we build on environmentally sustainable choices by accounting for infrastructure, energy and investments that we can sustain and has minimal effects on the environment.

On reflection, infrastructure development is essential if we are to meet the food, water and energy needs of a growing global population. Maldives is committed to working closely with our regional partners and different stakeholders to get back to a development trajectory as sustainable transport will enable the implementation of nearly all the SDGs and attain them through inter-linkage impacts.

I thank you.