

MALDIVES

Thank you Chair. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The deliberations thus far have shown us that national statistical systems and the statistical community should be involved in the design of the monitoring and review mechanism from the outset.

The successful addressing of the challenges for statistics development requires collaborative efforts by a wide range of stakeholders, **a regional platform can be established to engage policymakers and other data users to provide critical feedback to statistical community through dialogues.**

Engaging statisticians in regional monitoring and review mechanism will be important in particular in order to:

- **Ensure that the statistical programmes of national and regional institutions are aligned with the data needs of monitoring so as to better support the latter.**
- **Ensure that statisticians can provide the methodological support to monitoring, such as understanding of data methods, data gaps, analysis etc.**

I would like to emphasize that for all this to happen it is imperative that national development plans include statistics development as a goal and national development plans should be linked to national statistical development strategies and plans.

In terms of the concrete recommendations given in the background paper:

**I support the proposal of a Regional Trust Fund for Data and Statistics.**

As mentioned earlier, strengthening national statistical systems and implementing the required transformations in the post-2015 era will require the deployment of additional resources. In order to equip national statistical systems with the required resources, it is important to have a regional endowment to underwrite production, management and use of data which are particularly needed to monitoring and follow-up regional targets and indicators of SDGs.

**Furthermore, both the secretariat of ESCAP and national statistical systems need to be properly resourced in order to monitor the achievement of these two targets.**

I would like highlight the challenges faced by small island developing states such as the Maldives, to produce the statistics required for the monitoring of the SDG indicators.