

AGENDA ITEM 2: COUNTRY STATEMENT

Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Amina Mohammed;

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana;

Under-Secretary-General of UN DESA, Mr. Li Junhua

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai and Excellencies;

Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

“Asalaamalikum/Good Morning”.

It gives me great pleasure to speak at this 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

SDGs provided all of us with a long-term development vision through a comprehensive and integrated framework.

Following its adoption, we took important steps to shape the SDG agenda for the Maldives.

The 2nd Voluntary National Review that will be submitted in the in the High level Political Forum this year will be a way that touch the progress of the SDGs and identify the major challenges for the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Global pandemic brought a halt to all programs and the way we are living. For a country like Maldives that is highly dependent on tourism and imports, it has proven to not only be a health pandemic, but devastation on our economies and livelihood.

In order to withstand the impacts of COVID-19 and to recover the economy, we instituted several measures. Financial relief packages, utility discounts, and a 6-month moratorium on all

credit facilities we have given. Additionally, an income support program to individuals who lost their jobs was provided.

Resulting from these diligent actions Maldives had a strong rebound. From 2021 Q2 onwards all subsequent quarters show positive growth rates respectively, mainly driven by the significant recovery in tourism sector amongst other major sectors.

Distinguished Delegates,

Maldives has succeeded with one of the largest commitments made by the government, which is ensuring that all Maldivian citizens are connected to the country's economy, infrastructure and social services through an efficient, reliable and convenient national public ferry system across the country.

This project is to be implemented in 3 phases. We currently are striving to develop the network in the rest of the country after successfully completing the 1st phase of this project.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by emphasizing on developing meaningful and transformational partnerships. Collaboration between regional and sub-regional investments on trade, research and harnessing new opportunities is vital. I sincerely hope that through the discussions in this forum we will be able to produce meaningful partnerships between the countries

Thank you