



ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ރާއްޖެ

Embassy of the Republic of Maldives

**Statement delivered by Ms. Huda Ali Shareef, Permanent Representative of Maldives to
UNESCAP at the Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development,
27-30 March 2023
Agenda Item 5a: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda**

Good afternoon, everyone.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the comprehensive presentation and for the substantive report issued for consideration under this agenda item.

Throughout the Asia and the Pacific, countries are struggling to achieve the SDGs. The COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts in different parts of the world coupled with human-made and natural disasters has derailed progress. What was meant to become the Decade of Action, quickly turned into the Decade of Recovery. We are now at a critical juncture – the halfway point in our quest to achieve the SDGs.

Yet, in South and South-West Asia, we are sadly not on track to reach any of the 17 SDGs by 2030. Although progress has been made, the pace of progress has been slow. Yet, as a region we seem to be regressing the most in Sustainable Cities and Communities, Goal 11, Responsible Consumption and Production, Goal 12, and perhaps most worryingly for my country, Climate Action, Goal 13. We are in dire need of urgent strategic and concentrated efforts to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs in our sub-region.

Excellencies,

Nationally, we are doing all we can to achieve the SDGs, especially Goal 13. The government's ambitious target of achieving net zero emissions by 2030 is still in full effect. We also aim to establish 70 per cent power generation capacity from renewable energy sources by 2030. However, we are also mindful that mitigation measures alone will not allow us to survive. We therefore require assistance to ensure we adapt to the raging climate crisis.

In the recently concluded COP27, the Maldives played an active role – acting as a bridge between developed and developing countries. Our role was crucial to forge consensus to establish the Loss and Damage Fund. Let me take this opportunity to reiterate our call to work together to ensure the Fund is operationalized in the lead up to COP28.

Our region also needs predictable, sustainable and adequate climate finance to ensure our progress towards achieving Goal 13 is back on track. In this regard, developed countries must fully deliver



on the USD100 billion per year financing pledge towards climate action, and with half of that allocated towards adaptation projects.

Excellencies,

We must support each other in our region to ensure all of us achieves the 2030 Agenda. This must be done through collaborative efforts by sharing knowledge, technology and financial support. We must increase South-South and Triangular-Cooperation. We must collaborate on investment, trade and research. Business as usual will simply not do anymore.

The aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic has still left distress on the economies of all our countries. We must commit to ensure cooperation and solidarity at all levels. We must work together – across countries, regions and at the international level.

The Maldives looks forward to presenting its second Voluntary National Review this year. I call on all of you to support us in this endeavor. It is only with your support and solidarity, that we can hope to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.
