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MALDIVES

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National Statement – ECOSOC Partnership Forum Opening Plenary

Date and time: 30 January 2024

**Statement by
Dr Ibrahim Zuhuree
Deputy Permanent Representative**

30 January 2024

(3 Minutes)

Madam President, Excellencies,

At the outset, I thank you, for organising this Forum, at such an opportune time. I also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Ms. Charitie Ropati, for their keynote addresses.

Madam President,

Almost a decade since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Maldives is proud of its accomplishments. On SDG1 we have achieved or are on track to meeting the goals. However, on SDGs 2, 13, 16, and 17, we face major challenges. Challenges that can only be addressed through genuine partnerships.

In this regard, I would like to note three points:



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First, sustainable development goals cannot be achieved without international cooperation and partnerships. It is this belief that has led the Maldives to co-chair the Preparatory Committee for the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States. Work of the preparatory committee are ongoing and we are happy to note the strong commitment by all member states, UN System, and civil society to work together to ensure that small island developing states can achieve sustainable development. We call on all Member States to actively take part in the work of the Prep Comm and to show that through genuine partnerships, sustainable development can be achieved.

Second, major challenges to achieve sustainable development, especially in SIDS, is lack of data or access to data, and lack of productive capacity. To ensure that sustainable development is achieved, productive capacity must be developed. We must also ensure that data, especially data related to achieving SDGs such as SDG 13 are easily accessible and available to all Member States. This can only be achieved through partnerships.

Third, access to finance is a key challenge in achieving sustainable development. In the face of lack of finance, developing countries must rely on our partners, and their generous assistance to help us achieve development. However, such development is not sustainable. This is why, the Maldives, and our fellow SIDS have championed the early finalisation of the Multidimensional Vulnerability



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Index as the existing international financial architecture is no longer able to assist us in achieving sustainable development.

Madam President,

As a small island developing state with limited resources, the Maldives is acutely aware of the importance of partnerships for sustainable development. We hope that through this Forum, we are able to see the positive impacts of partnerships in achieving the SDGs, and how they can be better adapted, to meet the unique demands of our countries, and the challenges they face.

I thank you.
