

Honourable Minister Dr. Mariyam Shakeela attends the 5th Meeting of the Council of the IRENA

Minister of Environment and Energy, Honourable Dr. Mariyam Shakeela represented the Republic of Maldives as the head of the delegation at the 5th Meeting of the council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), held in Abu Dhabi.

The Minister, Dr. Mariyam Shakeela gave a presentation themed “IRENA as the Global Hub for renewable energy” in which she highlighted the importance of reducing unfavourable changes to the environment. In addition to this, she also stated that 35 percent of our GDP is spent on oil importation, of which, 80 percent is utilized for electricity generation alone and that this leads to the government spending a large amount of money on subsidies in an effort to make electricity more affordable, making the system collectively unsustainable. She

further stated that this was affecting the tourism industry as well and that the solution lies in expanding the renewable energy sector of the Maldives. In her presentation, she stressed upon the various challenges faced in the exploitation of renewable energy and alternatively, the ways in which IRENA can provide assistance to overcome these challenges.

The IRENA is an intergovernmental Agency whose mission is to make an impact in the world of renewable energy by maintaining an independent position and providing reliable and comprehensive services that complement existing sustainable and renewable energy projects. The small scale waste-to-energy full project proposal submitted by the Maldives, focusing on three regions, namely Addu City, R.Vandhoo and HDh.Kulhudhufushi is currently under review by the Panel of Experts at IRENA. An executive summary of the proposal was initially submitted to IRENA, and was selected among the 19 proposals shortlisted from the originally submitted 80 proposals. Bilateral discussions are currently underway on the sectors in which IRENA could provide further assistance and IRENA has pledged to support the Maldives in these sectors.