

**REPORT**  
**OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE**  
**MALDIVES PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

June 03, 2007, Bandos Island Resort, Rep. of Maldives

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## Abbreviations

FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
PDCP	Population and Development Consolidation Programme
SIDP	Safe Islands Development Programme
EU	European Union
GSP+	Generalised System of Preferences
MIC	Middle Income Country
LDC	Least Developed Country
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPF	Maldives Partnership Forum
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SAFTA	South Asia Free Trade Agreement
ILO	International Labour Organisation
CO2	Carbondioxide
MIP	Multi-Annual Indicative Program
MEDT	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
FISB	Foreign Investment Services Bureau
AG	Attorney General
MPND	Ministry of Planning and National Development
MMA	Maldives Monetary Authority
BML	Bank of Maldives Plc
SEZ	Special Economic Zones
MTCA	Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation
MTPB	Maldives Tourism Promotion Board
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
MEEW	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
MOFT	Ministry of Finance and Treasury
WB	World Bank
WTO	World Tourism Organisation

## Introduction

The second meeting of the Maldives Partnership Forum (MPF) was held in Bandos Island Resort, the Republic of Maldives, on 3 June 2007. Organized by the Department of External Resources (DER) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Forum was attended by international development partners (donor countries, international organisations, and international financial institutions). See Annex 1 for a complete list of participants.

The MPF is a key building block in the Government's coordination efforts, establishing a platform for discussion between the Government and its key development partners to discuss the country's development objectives, and challenges. The Forum provides a unique opportunity for the Government to seek the support and advice of key international development partners, to promote public-private partnerships, and to encourage private sector-lead development.

The second meeting of the Maldives Partnership Forum consisted of two sessions, each on a distinct thematic issue: Investment Opportunities in the Maldives and National Adaptation to Climate Change. Papers were prepared for these two themes, and other relevant themes, and were sent to the invitees, two weeks in advance of the Forum. The papers, and the project profiles that accompanied the papers were also included in the *MALDIVES: Expanding Partnerships for Development*, which the DER published in time for the Forum.

The Ceremonial Opening of the Forum was held in the Conference Hall of the Islamic Centre, Male'. Dr Ahmed Shaheed, Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered the welcoming remarks, followed by remarks by Mr Patrice Coeur-Bizot, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Maldives.

H.E. President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom delivered the Opening Address (Annex 4), in which he thanked all development partners for their continued interest in the progress of the Maldives. He added that though some of the numerous challenges facing a small nation as the Maldives can be overcome by national action, others require a collective effort. The President said that climate change is one of the areas posing numerous threats to the country's development and the welfare of its people and urged the participating Governments for urgent action on implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

Speaking about the pace of development in the Maldives today, the President noted that investments in infrastructure, sanitation, housing and healthcare and education and human capital remains a priority. He also spoke of economic expansion and investment in economic activities such as tourism and agriculture and said that the Maldives offers promising opportunities for FDI in many areas.

Speaking further, the President spoke of the democratic reform process and said that new laws were being passed to modernise the democratic foundations of the country and to strengthen human rights protection. He also added that efforts are being undertaken to increase accountability and transparency in governance. The President expressed intention to complete the process of revising the constitution at the earliest and commitment to put in place the necessary mechanisms to hold the country's very first multiparty elections before November 2008.

In concluding his address, the President said that the upcoming graduation is a testament to the country's transformation and change. The graduation is not only desirable but is certainly attainable with the support of the international community and by forming new partnerships and strengthening the existing ones.

## Summary of the Discussions and Outcomes of the Forum

### *Summary of Discussions*

The summary of the Maldives Partnership Forum (MPF) discussions are grouped into three categories:

- 1) General comments
- 2) Investment opportunities
- 3) Environment – adaptation to climate change

Representatives from development partners expressed a clear willingness to engage with the Government and sustain a long-term partnership. They also expressed interest in expanding cooperation in various areas. However, those who have expressed such willingness also recommended that the Government make two very important decisions:

- **Priority setting:** The Government to very clearly set priorities (among sectors, and within sectors) and be able to communicate that very clearly to the development partners.
- **Articulating policies and strategies:** The Government to articulate and communicate to the development partners, its important development programmes. In this regards, many visiting delegates wanted clarifications on the population and development consolidation programme and the safer island development programme. These programmes were seen as potential cornerstones in short, medium and long-term development of the Maldives but presently the stated policies and strategies behind these concepts are not very clear. Support is likely even for these activities, however, such activities must be further developed first. The background papers were a good start – but more specificity is needed on number of islands, advocacy and awareness raising strategies on ensuring more information is provided to the island populations and how exactly the Government will foresee these projects will be implemented and with what time frame in mind.

### GENERAL COMMENTS

1. **Population and Development Consolidation Programme (PDCP):** The background paper was welcomed by almost all delegates, as a lot of uncertainty existed previously about the programme and hence having something concrete being presented was taken by the delegates as a very good start. A number of bilateral partners expressed willingness to work with the Government in implementing the programme. However, almost all partners repeatedly raised questions on the PDCP: what sort of information was communicated to the communities; was information disseminated

in an organized and deliberate fashion; what are the islands identified and short listed (is a list of islands available); what kind of incentives were in place for the programme to take off; any studies carried out so far to determine the ecologically or economically sustainable number of islands for permanent settlement. It was therefore repeatedly stated that the PDCP needed to be better defined for the purpose of implementation but also because a number of the other background papers repeatedly referred to the implementation of the programme as a precondition for improved delivery and services in other areas. It was furthermore recommended that the Government adopt a more coherent approach to inter-twine the two concepts – PDCP and Safe Islands Development Programme (SIDP) – in this connection confusion was expressed over the difference between the two programmes. It was also suggested that a clearer and coherent relationship be established between the national strategies for adaptation to climate change, the country's policies for foreign investment, and the population and development consolidation programme and SIDP.

2. **7<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan:** It was questioned if the Plan was finalized or still is in draft format. A number of partners await the formal finalization of the 7<sup>th</sup> NDP before they themselves can prepare country programmes in support of Maldives.
3. **Roadmap for Democratic Reform:** Several partners repeatedly commended the Government for having developed and presented the Roadmap – but the same partners also expressed concern over the delays in implementation of the Roadmap and urged the parties concerned to demonstrate tangible results in the immediate future.
4. **Fiscal policies – macroeconomic situation:** Partners expressed concern over the fiscal policies in place and stressed the importance of demonstrating tight fiscal control and discipline to avoid a situation whereby severe economic risks for the country can occur.
5. **LDC Graduation** – several partners stressed the importance of starting negotiations on preferential trade agreements as soon as possible and not wait for the graduation date of 2011. The EU expressed willingness to support and assist the Government in its negotiations to secure GSP+ status. As graduation is going to happen it will also be important to have a better understanding of what kind of implications MIC status will have on the economy in general.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MALDIVES

**Generic note:** throughout references will be made to investment opportunities without any specificity or reference to particular projects, sectors or activities – this is due to the very broad way the discussions took place during the conference, but also due to the perceived lack of clarity on the Government's priorities in terms of sectors and activities when promoting FDI and in declaring Maldives open for business.

Representatives from partner countries expressed support for the Government in promoting FDIs to the Maldives. The EU and the Kuwait Fund came up with specific offers:

- Kuwait Fund: Made an offer to host a conference in Kuwait with participation of members of the Kuwait chambers of commerce.
- European Commission: The EC Delegation expressed support to the Government in its negotiations to secure GSP+ status.

Other countries represented also expressed interest in considering a request from the Maldives for concluding preferential trade agreements. The European Commission said that the EC was going to sign an MoU with the Government during the MPF which include a component to support to 'regional development of 'focus'/'safe' islands encouraging environmental sustainability, income-generating activities and improved community services and two non-focal areas: economic development and improved trade capacity'.

The participants also stated that the information provided by the Government at the MPF will be forwarded to investors in their respective countries. The participants, however, wanted to clarify more information on policies and strategic of the Government on FDIs, and made some suggestions and recommendation. Some of these include:

1. **Legal framework and local bureaucratic procedures** need to be further developed and strengthen: Partners expressed the importance of a sound, transparent and reliable legal framework to be in place if FDI is to be attracted to the country. Part of such a legal framework could be the one-stop shop approach whereby interested partners could obtain advice and support at one central place to avoid delays and confusion and ensure a streamlined handling and streamlined and coherent information is being communicated.
2. **Focus and prioritization:** Partners expressed interest in supporting and promoting investment in the Maldives, but stressed the importance of the Government firstly to clearly outline *the what, why, where and how* regarding investments in the Maldives. Need to clearly articulate and promote what is looked for by the Government – the time frame, the costs, the return on investments, the broader opportunities. Presently it seems to be a number of independent projects that are presented and not a coherent package. Although some large scale activities are being negotiated with select partners the overall impression is that of lack of focus and prioritization. Furthermore, exactly what kind of industrialization is envisaged – this was unclear to most participants at the MPF.
3. **Need to position Maldives as an FDI destination:** Partners pointed out the need to position the Maldives as an attractive destination for FDIs in selective sectors – demonstrate the comparative advantages of Maldives clearly – not just be equal among other countries in the region, but try to become the best in the region. For Maldives to make a difference the comparative advantages of investing in the Maldives (and again invest in sectors other than Fish and Tourism) it was stressed that Maldives will need to present an outstanding opportunity. As logistics is limited in the Maldives

and hence investments on the outset seemingly are 'easier' in e.g. the Middle East, India or Singapore, Maldives must clearly present the uniqueness of the country for investments.

4. **Learn from experiences of other small island developing states in attracting FDI – SIDS.** Smallness of Maldives does not matter in a globalized world – the size of the population being 300,000 is perhaps insignificant as products will be aimed at a global world. Important to have thorough research undertaken to learn from what other small economies – in particular small island development states – have experienced and how challenges have been overcome.
5. **Need to package investment opportunities to increase the scale** – smallness of investment opportunities may scare away potential investors. As most operations in the Maldives are fairly low-key and small compared to investments in bigger economies (besides tourism) it will be essential to package and combine investment opportunities to attract large scale investment. Partners therefore recommended presenting a coherent package and not just taking the current piecemeal approach with a number of single standing project activities.
6. **Clarity on partnerships with whom:** In terms of prioritization and presentation of investment opportunities and needs several partners stressed the importance to clarify between what bilateral or multilateral development agencies could support vs. investment opportunities for large private sector engagement.
7. **More trade agreements needed:** Development partners urged the Government to develop further bilateral trade agreements to attract investors. Currently the only such arrangement is SAFTA, which is somewhat limited in scope.
8. **What prospects exists for banking:** can international banks establish themselves in the Maldives – what kind of legislation is in place?
9. **More information on Special Economic Zones:** it was not clearly understood exactly what benefits will be derived from the economic zones and what kind of industry that the government is envisaging will be the key target – special sectors, special kind of production?
10. **General issue on time scale:** what kind of framework in terms of medium or long term development is being looked at? This must be clearly outlined.
11. **Employment opportunities for local and expatriate labour force:** what is possible, what is available? Adherence to ILO standards?

## NATIONAL ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Participants reiterated the support, in general terms, to the Government's adaptation measures presented at the MPF. They, however, had serious concerns, questions and clarifications on the Government's policies and strategies on adaptation to climate change.

1. **Not just an environmental problem:** Global climate change cannot be regarded just another environment problem – it must be regarded as a development problem. If adaptation activities and the approach to climate change is solely the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, then it was stressed that the Maldives might fail in its adaptation. Climate change and the impact this has is a much wider problem having an impact on all sectors in the society and not just the environment.
2. **Integrated cross sector approach necessary:** As global climate change and the impact of same is not just on the environment the approach in creating solutions need to be across all sectors and integrated in all development activities.
3. **Need to address problems in Maldives – adaptation:** Maldives will have to deal with the impact on a local/national scale and do so with urgency – however, at the same time not be seen as over preparing for disaster management rather than adapting to climate change.
4. **Need to address problems globally – mitigation.** At the same time partners and the Government will need to outline the impact of climate change – which is not the result of local activities – on the local and national scale and ensure that global action is taken. Although Maldives for many years have been very vocal on the international scene regarding the impact of climate change it is necessary to be even more vocal.
5. **Funding:** adaptation is enormously expensive hence funding from external partners is very much needed – but at the same time the Government also need to clearly prioritize among the projects. While all projects are important not all can receive external assistance hence a national prioritization is necessary to avoid letting the development partners undertake such prioritization and thereby in reality determine what is funded and what is not.
6. **Not to scare to but to aware:** The Government will need to create awareness on the impact on climate change – but nationally and internationally. Continue on creating awareness on vulnerability of Maldives to climate change.
7. **Use tourism as a mechanism for creating awareness on climate change:** more than 600,000 people on an annual basis travel to Maldives to enjoy the climate and the beaches in the country. These tourists can be utilized as ambassadors for the country in generating international awareness on the volatility of the climate and the geography of the Maldives.

8. **Developing innovate financing mechanisms through tourism:** Government must look at ways to utilize tourist revenues for adaptation measures – or develop new financing mechanisms via the tourism sector. Establishing a CO2 emission fund to offset emissions would be one possible mechanism.

### *Summary of Outcomes*

Outcomes of the Forum, in the form of suggestions and recommendation are in the matrix in Annex 1. The matrix summarizes follow-up actions, and identifies the agencies responsible. All comments and recommendations have been numbered for ease of reference, however, this does not in any way imply any kind of priority among the topics.

### *Agreements signed and pledges announced:*

The following two agreements were signed at the MPF.

- An Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Maldives and the European Commission regarding the Multi-Annual Indicative Program (MIP) 2007-2010. Under this MoU, assistance of US\$ 5.4 million will be provided for Regional Development and two non-focal areas; economic development and improved trade capacity, democratization and good governance.
- An Agreement with Japan was signed for assistance of US\$ 5.5 million, to construct a Second Girls Secondary School in Male’.

In addition, a pledge was made by the representative from Australia to increase its assistance to Maldives, mainly towards assisting the Government with human capacity building.

The Kuwait Government also pledged to host a Business Conference in Kuwait to assist Maldives promote FDI in the country.

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## **ANNEXES**

**GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES, FOLLOW-UP MATRIX, MALDIVES PARTNERSHIP FORUM II, 3 JUNE 2007**

**Investment opportunities in the Maldives**

Activity/Inputs	Output	Outcome	Partner Agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assess current investment regulations and rules and determine the actors involved</li> <li>▪ Merge roles and responsibilities of investment promotion that are currently distributed among various government agencies to one agency,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishment of a One-Stop-Shop for investment under MEDT/FISB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Less bureaucratic procedures in place</li> <li>▪ Easier to invest in Maldives</li> <li>▪ Increase in investments</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>National Partners:</u></b> FISB, MEDT, AG, MPND</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Working group to revise current Acts and Bills on FDI</li> <li>▪ Study activity (either desk-study or study tour) to include lessons learnt from other countries in similar situation facing challenges on broadening investment opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regulatory Framework amended</li> </ul>		<p><b><u>External Partners:</u></b> EU could be requested input on GSP+ process</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analyze the prospects for international banking operations in the Maldives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More international banks being established in the country</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expanded banking opportunities in the Maldives</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>National Partner</u></b> MEDT, MMA, BML</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analyse the possibilities and advantages of establishing special economic zones (SEZ) – pros and cons of such</li> <li>▪ Analyse what the advantage/edge of having SEZ in the Maldives as opposed to other similar set-ups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SEZ policy in place with clear recommendations and expectation as to what this will contribute</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More investments</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Further develop project portfolio with the aim of clarifying roles of responsibility and a clear prioritization of activities</li> <li>▪ Project/present Maldives as more than just tourism</li> <li>▪ Identify potential investors – need to have clarity on who Maldives foresee as potential new partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Have a coherent FDI policy/ programme developed and not just stand alone projects</li> <li>▪ Include more than just tourism projects</li> <li>▪ Be specific on the sectors available for investments</li> <li>▪ Clarity on the partners available and looked for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased focus and prioritization enabling further dialogue</li> <li>▪ Contribute to more focused investment dialogue and promotion</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>National Partner</u></b> MEDT, FISB</p>

GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES, FOLLOW-UP MATRIX, MALDIVES PARTNERSHIP FORUM II, 3 JUNE 2007

Investment opportunities in the Maldives

Activity/Inputs	Output	Outcome	Partner Agencies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Global advocacy and awareness campaign on investment opportunities in the Maldives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Better positioning of the Maldives – awareness generation of investment possibilities</li> <li>▪ Increased investments</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>National Partner</u></b> MEDT, FISB, MTCA, MTPB</p>

**GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES, FOLLOW-UP MATRIX, MALDIVES PARTNERSHIP FORUM II, 3 JUNE 2007**

**Investment opportunities in the Maldives – individual partners**

<b>Activity/Inputs</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Partner Agencies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review existing trade agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expanded trade agreements in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enable further investments and increased import/export</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>National Partner</u></b> MEDT, FISB</p> <p><b><u>External Partners:</u></b> EU could be requested input on GSP+ process</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Business Conference in Kuwait</li> <li>▪ Engage local business community to contribute towards such conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conference is undertaken</li> <li>▪ Expanded visibility to investment opportunities in a very key market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Possibility of further investment in the Maldives</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>National Partner</u></b> MEDT, FISB, Chambers of Commerce</p> <p><b><u>External Partners:</u></b> Kuwait Fund, IDB</p>

**GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES, FOLLOW-UP MATRIX, MALDIVES PARTNERSHIP FORUM II, 3 JUNE 2007**

**National Adaptation to Climate Change**

Activity/Inputs	Output	Outcome	Partner Agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Create awareness campaign globally and nationally on impact on climate change</li> <li>▪ 'wake-up' calls to international community</li> <li>▪ Further mitigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Awareness campaign contributes to expanded understanding of impact and further action being taken to reduce climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Further funding and understanding</li> <li>▪ Local and international action secured</li> <li>▪ Further support for Kyoto, Bali</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>National Partners:</u></b> MEEW, MTPB, MOFA, MEDT</p> <p><b><u>External Partners:</u></b> UNEP, UNDP, Greenpeace</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure environmental concerns are truly treated as cross cutting issues</li> <li>▪ Have all policies aligned with environmental concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Holistic national approach to climate change secured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environment and national adaptation to climate change is addressed nationwide but all national stakeholders – not primarily the concern of MEEW</li> </ul>	<p>Government of Maldives</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a resource mobilization campaign with clear priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resource mobilization campaign in place and implemented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding mobilized with increased efficiency</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>National Partners:</u></b> MEEW, MTPB, MOFA, MEDT, MOFT,</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analyze if the Maldives can further utilize the vast number of tourist arrivals to brand the country as environmentally fragile but also active in advocating to prevent global warming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish global ambassador scheme – with international names plus masses of individuals (be member of an exclusive club with the likes of Elton John, George Michael, Armani,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased awareness</li> <li>▪ Mobilization of funding</li> <li>▪ Global public support</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>National Partners:</u></b> MEEW, MTPB, MOFA, MEDT, MOFT,</p>

**GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES, FOLLOW-UP MATRIX, MALDIVES PARTNERSHIP FORUM II, 3 JUNE 2007**

**National Adaptation to Climate Change**

<b>Activity/Inputs</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Partner Agencies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analyze and use tourists as global ambassadors in advocating for the impacts of climate change and the need for addressing this issue</li> </ul>	<p>Gabbana and Tom Cruise who have all been to the Maldives)</p>		<p><b><u>External Partners:</u></b></p> <p>UNDP, WB, Clinton Foundation, Tourists, WTO (World Tourism Organization)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop new and innovate financing mechanisms for national adaptation measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Have financing mechanism identified and implemented</li> <li>▪ Broadened development partner base</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased funding secured for national adaptation activities</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>National Partners:</u></b></p> <p>MEEW, MTPB, MOFA, MEDT, MOFT,</p> <p><b><u>External Partners:</u></b></p> <p>UNDP, WB, Clinton Foundation, Tourists, WTO (World Tourism Organization)</p>

## **ANNEX 3**

### **Maldives Partnership Forum (MPF) II - 3 June 2007**

#### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Country / Organization</b>
	<b>BILATERAL</b>		
<b>1</b>	Mr. Percy Stanley	Counsellor, Development Assistance	High Commission of Australia
<b>2</b>	Ms. Cecilia Brennan	Second Secretary (Political)	High Commission of Australia
<b>3</b>	Mr. Muhammad Mustafa	Counsellor	High Commission of Bangladesh
<b>4</b>	Ms. Angela Bogdan	High Commissioner	Canadian High Commission
<b>5</b>	Mr. Calvin Piggot	First Secretary (Development)	Canadian High Commission
<b>6</b>	Mr. Ge Chuanyou	Counsellor (Political)	Embassy of People's Republic of China
<b>7</b>	Ms. Guo Xiaohan	Attache'	Embassy of People's Republic of China
<b>8</b>	Mr. Julian Wilson	Head of Mission	Delegation of European Commission
<b>9</b>	Ms. Zahra Pinero Lozano	Programme Manager	Delegation of European Commission
<b>10</b>	H.E. Mr. Asko Numminen	Ambassador	Embassy of Finland
<b>11</b>	Mr. Jean-Bernard MAUCOR	Representative, AFD	Embassy of France
<b>12</b>	Mr. Andreas Hartmann	Counsellor, Economic Cooperation and Development	Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
<b>13</b>	H.E. Mr. Avanindra Kumar Pandey	High Commissioner	High Commission of India
<b>14</b>	Mr. Mohan Kumar	Attache'	High Commission of India
<b>15</b>	H.E. Mr. Kiyoshi Araki	Ambassador	Embassy of Japan
<b>16</b>	Mr. Yasuhiro Watanabe	Second Secretary	Embassy of Japan
<b>18</b>	Mr. Takumi Ueshima	Chief Representative	Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA)

17	Mr. Manabu Iida	Assistant Resident Representative	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
19	Dr. Atsushi Kaneko	Chief Representative	Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)
20	Mr. S.A.I. Elapata	Project Specialist	Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)
21	H.E. Mr. Fahad H. Sh. Almetairi	Ambassador	Embassy of the State of Kuwait
22	Mr. Jasim Hassan Ahmed Al-Sharrah	Diplomatic Attache'	Embassy of the State of Kuwait
23	Mr. Abdul Kareem Al-Mutawa	Regional Director for East, South Asia and Pacific Countries	Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development
24	H.E. Ms. Nazirah Binti Hussain	High Commissioner	High Commission of Malaysia
25	H.E. Mr. Muhammad Anwar Chohan	High Commissioner	High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
26	H.E. Mr. Ali Hamad Al-Marri	Ambassador	Embassy of the State of Qatar
27	H.E. Mr. Mohamed Al Ali	Ambassador	Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
28	Eng. Mohammed AL-ARIFI	Director General, Asia Department (Head of Delegation)	Saudi Fund for Development
29	Mr. Mohammed AL-GHEFILI	Chief Economist	Saudi Fund for Development
30	H.E. Mr. M.L.M. Ali Farook	High Commissioner	High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
31	H.E. Mr. Mahmood Mohammed Al-Mahmood	Ambassador	United Arab Emirates
32	Ms. Jenny Patterson	Second Secretary	British High Commission
33	Ms. Liz McClymont	Third Secretary	British High Commission
34	H.E. Mr. Robert O. Blake Jr.	US Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives	Embassy of the United States of America
35	Mr. Robert Gabor	Head of Commercial and Economic Affairs	Embassy of the United States of America
36	Mr. Richard L. Edwards	Director, Office of Economic Growth	USAID, Colombo

<b>MULTILATERAL</b>			
37	Mr. Abid M. Hussain	ADB Maldives Country Team Leader	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
38	Mr. Amir Hossain	Country Officer	Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
39	Mr. Richard Scurfield	Special Representative to Maldives	The World Bank
40	Mr. Patrice Coeur-Bizot	UN Resident Coordinator	Office of the UN Resident Coordinator
41	Ms. Anna Senga	UN Coordination Specialist	Office of the UN Resident Coordinator
42	Ms. Zamra Zahir	Communication Officer	Office of the UN Resident Coordinator
43	Ms. Melaia Vatucawaqa	Deputy Resident Representative	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
44	Ms. Rae-Ann Peart	Special Assistant to the Resident Representative	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
45	Mr. Ram Shankar	Assistant Resident Representative	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
46	Ms. Hudha Ahmed	Assistant Representative, Environment	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
47	Mr. Abdul Bari Abdulla	Assistant Resident Representative, Livelihoods & Decentralisation	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
48	Mr. Johan Fagerskiold	Programme Coordinator	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
49	Mr. Ken Maskall	UNICEF Representative	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
50	Ms. Clare Creo	Technical Officer, Resource Mobilization	World Health Organisation (WHO)
51	Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz	Director General	South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
<b>RED CROSS &amp; RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES</b>			

52	Mr. Jerry Talbot	Head of Delegation	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies - Maldives Delegation (IFRC)
53	Mr. Emmanuel Vivien	Head of Mission	French Red Cross
<b>MALDIVIAN MISSIONS ABROAD</b>			
54	H.E. Dr. Mohamed Asim	High Commissioner	H/C in Sri Lanka, Colombo
55	Mr. Ahmed Sareer	Counsellor	H/C in Sri Lanka, Colombo
56	H.E. Lt. Gen (Ret.) Anbaree Abdul Sattar	High Commissioner	H/C in India, New Delhi
57	Mr. Ahmed Latheef	Deputy High Commissioner	H/C in India, New Delhi
58	H.E. Mr. Midhath Hilmy	High Commissioner	H/C in Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur
59	H.E. Mr. Hassan Sobir	High Commissioner	H/C in UK, London
60	H.E. Dr. Mohamed Latheef	Ambassador	Permanent Mission of Maldives to UN, New York
61	Mr. Ahmed Khaleel	Chargé d'Affaires	Embassy in Japan, Tokyo
62	Mr. Abdul Latheef Qasim	Consul	Consulate of Maldives, Trivandrum
63	Mr. Edward Cameron	Counsellor, (Chargé d'Affaires - Designate)	Embassy of Maldives to the United States
64	Mr. Patrick McMullan	Chargé d'Affaires	Permanent Mission of Maldives to the European Communities
<b>LOCAL (NGOs)</b>			
65	Mr. Mohamed Solih	President	Maldives Chamber of Commerce and Industries
66	Mr. Sim Ibrahim Mohamed	Secretary General	Maldives Association of Tourism Industry
67	Mr. Mohamed Ali Janah	Deputy President	Maldives Association of Construction Industry
<b>LOCAL (Government Offices)</b>			
68	Mr. Riluwan Shareef	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Finance and Treasury
69	Ms. Aminath Ali	Assistant Director General	Ministry of Finance and Treasury

<b>70</b>	Ms. Fathmath Nuzha	Assistant Director	Ministry of Finance and Treasury
<b>71</b>	Ms. Aminath Inasha Shafeeq	Assistant Undersecretary	Ministry of Finance and Treasury
<b>72</b>	Hon. Hamdun Hameed	Minister	Ministry of Planning and National Development
<b>73</b>	Ms. Rasheeda Ali	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Planning and National Development
<b>74</b>	Dr. Mohamed Shareef	Executive Director	Ministry of Planning and National Development
<b>75</b>	Mr. Ahmed Mohamed	Executive Director	Ministry of Planning and National Development
<b>76</b>	Mr. Mohamed Imad	Director, Spatial Planning	Ministry of Planning and National Development
<b>77</b>	Ms. Aishath Shahuda	Director, Economic Statistics	Ministry of Planning and National Development
<b>78</b>	Ms. Aminath Haifa Naeem	Assistant Director	Ministry of Planning and National Development
<b>79</b>	Ms. Aishath Saadh	Assistant Director	Ministry of Planning and National Development
<b>80</b>	Mr. Ahmed Inaz	Assistant Director	Ministry of Planning and National Development
<b>81</b>	Mr. Mohamed Jaleel	Minister	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
<b>82</b>	Mr. Abdulla Salih	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
<b>83</b>	Mr. Yoosuf Riza	Assistant Director General	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
<b>84</b>	Mr. Abdulla Thawfeeq	Deputy Director, International Trade Policy	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
<b>85</b>	Mr. Amjad Abdulla	Assistant Director General	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water
<b>86</b>	Mr. Mohamed Zuhair	Deputy Director	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Water
<b>87</b>	Mr. Mohamed Hussain Shareef	Chief Government Spokesman	President's Office

<b>88</b>	Dr. Hala Hameed	Deputy Minister	President's Office
<b>89</b>	Dr. Isaam Mohamed	Deputy Minister	President's Office
<b>90</b>	Dr. Moosa Fathy	Executive Director	President's Office
<b>91</b>	Mr. Mohamed Hunaif	Executive Director	President's Office
<b>92</b>	Mr. Mohamed Faizal	Director	President's Office
<b>93</b>	Dr. Faathin Hameed	Deputy Minister	Min of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources
<b>94</b>	Mr. Mohamed Zuhair	Deputy Minister	Min of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources
<b>95</b>	Dr. Abdulla Naseer	Executive Director	Min of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources
<b>96</b>	Dr. Mohamed Shiham Adam	Executive Director	Min of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources
<b>97</b>	Ms. Sujatha Haleem	IDP Manager, NDMC	National Disaster Management Centre
<b>98</b>	Ms. Anne Davies	IDP Adviser	National Disaster Management Centre
<b>99</b>	Mr. Timothy Taylor	Consultant	National Disaster Management Centre
<b>100</b>	Mr. Patric Remus	AFD Consultant	National Disaster Management Centre
<b>101</b>	Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Construction and Public Infrastructure
<b>102</b>	Mr. Ali Amir	Director	Ministry of Construction and Public Infrastructure
<b>103</b>	Mr. Abdulla Naushad	Director, Engineering	Ministry of Construction and Public Infrastructure
<b>104</b>	Mr. Abdul Gafoor Abdul Latheef	Deputy Managing Director	Maldives Monetary Authority
<b>105</b>	Mr. Ibrahim Naeem	Deputy Managing Director, Financial Sector Division	Maldives Monetary Authority
<b>106</b>	Ms. Azeema Adam	Deputy Managing Director, Operations Division	Maldives Monetary Authority

107	Mr. Mahjoob Shujau	Managing Director	Hulhumale' Development Cooperation
108	Ms. Nuha Mohamed Riza	Deputy Director	Hulhumale' Development Cooperation
109	Dr. Mahmood Shawgy	Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation	Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation
110	Ms. Aishath Ali	Director, Human Resource Development	Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation
111	Mr. Mohamed Farusath	Assistant Director	Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation
112	Mr. Ahmed Wajeeth	Executive Director	Ministry of Transport and Communication
113	Mr. Shamoon Adam	Assistant Undersecretary	Ministry of Transport and Communication
114	Dr. Abdul Muhsin Mohamed	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Education
115	Ms. Jameela Ali	Supritendent of Education	Ministry of Education
116	Mr. Ahmed Shafeeu	Director	Ministry of Education
117	Dr. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed	Senior Medical Officer, Department of Public Health	Ministry of Health
118	Mr. Hassan Mohamed	Deputy Director	Ministry of Health
119	Mr. Abdul Rasheed Nafiz	Deputy Director	Ministry of Higher Education, Employment and Social Security
120	Ms. Fathimath Thasneem	Statistical Officer	Ministry of Higher Education, Employment and Social Security
121	Mr. Mohamed Luthfee	Assistant Publications Coordinator	Ministry of Information and Arts
122	Mr. Moosa Salih	Deputy Managing Director	Maldives Airports Company Ltd.
123	Mr. Mohamed Shareef	Director	Maldives Airports Company Ltd.
124	Ms. Aminath Mohamed Didi	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
125	Ms. Dhunya Maumoon	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
126	Mr. Abdulla Hameed	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
127	Ms. Eman Hussain	Deputy Director	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
128	Mr. Ahmed Shiyan	Assistant Director	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<b>129</b>	Dr. Hussain Niyaz	Executive Director	Department of External Resources
<b>130</b>	Mr. Ali Naseer Mohamed	Assistant Director General	Department of External Resources
<b>131</b>	Mr. Jonas Kjaer	UNDP Aid Coordination Advisor	Department of External Resources
<b>132</b>	Ms. Aminath Nashia	Deputy Director	Department of External Resources
<b>133</b>	Mr. Mohamed Anil	Director	Attorney General's Office

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**Updated on: 4 June 2007**

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



**Opening Address**  
**by**  
**His Excellency Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom,**  
**President of the Republic of Maldives,**  
**at the**  
**Second Maldives Partnership Forum**

*The Islamic Centre, Male'*  
*Sunday, 3 June 2007*

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

*Honourable Ministers, the UN Resident Coordinator, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

Let me extend a very warm welcome to all of you to this second meeting of the Maldives Partnership Forum. Following the success of last year's first meeting of the Forum, I am confident that this meeting, too, will be a very fruitful one.

I would like to thank you, and all our development partners, for their continued interest in the progress of the Maldives and the welfare and

advancement of our people. Your continued engagement and support is an important part of our development efforts.

*Distinguished Participants:*

The challenges facing a small island nation, such as the Maldives, are numerous. While some of these challenges could be overcome by national action, others require a high degree of international support and assistance. As you are all aware, the Maldives is well on track to achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals. But, there remain some very challenging areas that need a collective effort.

Climate change is one such area. It is, in fact, a global issue affecting all human beings across all borders. Environmental protection is a cause that the Maldives has long championed. Our focus has been on alerting the international community to the dangers that climate change and its devastating effects, including sea level rise, pose to the Maldives, and to the other low-lying countries and regions.

The high tidal swells and flooding that affected nearly 50% of all our populated islands two weeks ago, and even yesterday and today, are yet another harrowing reminder that the Maldives remains highly vulnerable to the elements and to the effects of climate change. Without timely international action, the dangers for the Maldives could very well be doubled.

There is no alternative but for the whole world to fight climate change. We on our part are doing what we can, but that would never be enough. Action on a global scale is a must. Indeed, this is what the Millennium Declaration calls for. Goal 7 of the MDGs recognizes that environmental sustainability is part of global economic and social well-being.

Global warming is not a result of the activities of Maldivian fishermen or farmers, nor is it caused by our small industries. Nevertheless, global warming impacts on the Maldives directly and drastically, more than on, perhaps, any other nation. It is our hope, therefore, that you would convey to your governments the need for urgent action on implementing the Kyoto Protocol, as a good first step, to be followed by others on the climb towards more concrete emissions cuts.

The country is still recovering from the devastating effects of the 2004 tsunami. Needless to say, the current high swells and flooding have placed additional burdens on the enormous task of post-tsunami recovery and reconstruction.

More than two years on, we still have a funding shortfall of over US\$ 75 million for the tsunami recovery. On top of that, we now face the cost of rebuilding the livelihoods and infrastructure washed out by the recent and current tidal waves.

More than 50 of our islands need harbours, simply to make them accessible. Many more need repairs and enlargement. Clean water and sewerage systems are required for basic hygiene of the population. Housing is currently

a critical sector in need of funding. Extending quality healthcare and education facilities to all our people remains a high priority. Projects in tourism and other economic and social areas also need investment. Strong support to build the human capital is a must to make such investments feasible and effective. Your constructive engagement in all these areas would help the development of the Maldives economically, socially and politically.

*Distinguished Participants:*

The Maldives is in the midst of an important democratic reform programme. The People's Special Majlis is engaged in the process of revising the Constitution. New laws are being passed to modernise the democratic foundations of the country, and to strengthen human rights protection. Independent institutions are being established to increase accountability and transparency in governance.

We now have five political parties registered and operating in the country. A national Human Rights Commission has been established and granted statutory powers. Legislative and institutional reforms have been implemented to introduce a free press. The criminal justice system is being reformed, and important measures are being introduced to strengthen judicial independence.

As soon as the drafting committee of the People's Special Majlis completes the work of drafting the new Constitution, the Government will hold a

Constitutional Conference, with the participation of all political parties, to ensure that the new Constitution is acceptable to all sections of the people. International observers will be invited to the Conference. We are determined to complete the process of revising the Constitution as soon as possible, and to put in place the necessary mechanisms to hold the country's very first multiparty elections before November 2008.

*Distinguished Participants:*

The Maldives is a nation in transition from a least developed to a middle income country. Our GDP, which was less than US\$ 300 in 1978, is now the highest in the region, at over US\$ 2,800. During the same period, life expectancy increased from 48 to 72 years. Infant mortality decreased from 120 per thousand to just 12.

To achieve further economic growth, we have embarked on several major projects. Thirty five islands have been ear-marked for resort development, one of which is expected to open in November this year. Ten islands are packaged to be developed as domestic airports cum-transit hotel facilities. The first five of these will be announced this June. The bidding process to build transit hotels at regional airports have already begun. Eleven islands are already in the bidding process for agricultural development.

Three mega foreign investment ventures are expected to start this year, for which the memorandums of understanding have already been signed. These

include a transshipment port project in the north of the country, phase-2 of Hulhumale' Development, and the Gulhifalhu Development Project, near Male'. The heads of agreement of the latter two ventures are expected to be signed by the end of this month. The feasibility study for the transshipment port project has been completed, and discussions on it will take place soon.

The upcoming graduation from the LDC status is a testament to our transformation. We do indeed want to become a prosperous middle income country. We wish to be a modern liberal democracy with strong human rights safeguards.

We want security from environmental and natural disasters. We want peace and harmony. To fulfil these hopes and aspirations, we need to form new partnerships and strengthen the existing ones.

*Distinguished Participants:*

Investing in the Maldives is about investing in growth, in the future, in ensuring environmental sustainability. It is about investing for the benefit of an entire nation. Indeed, the Maldives offers promising investment opportunities for foreign direct investments in many areas.

The tourism industry, as the main locomotive for our economic development, is rapidly expanding. With the expected increase in the number of resorts by about 50% in the coming 3-5 years, and the opening of

a second international airport in November this year, we are putting in place the necessary infrastructure to support this growth.

This growth is needed if we are to ensure a sustainable transition to a middle income country by 2011. Despite the tsunami and the setback caused by it, we firmly believe that this goal is attainable. We are, therefore, reaching out to the international community, seeking renewed partnerships to sustain our current development trends and ensure their success.

*Distinguished Participants:*

Dialogue is undoubtedly among the pinnacles of a partnership. However, dialogue must be followed by concrete action.

Change cannot be achieved by words.

It can be achieved only by action.

Change is not only desirable, but it is certainly attainable with your cooperation and support.

*Thank you.*