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**Statement by H.E Mr. Abdullahi Majeed,
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Maldives Voluntary National Review
High Level Political Forum 2017
19 July 2017**

H.E. Ambassador Cristián Barros Melet, Vice-President of Economic & Social Council

Distinguished delegates, colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen:

Assalaam alaikum varahmatullahi vabrakaathoo and good
[morning/afternoon]

It gives me great pleasure to present to this august assembly, the first Voluntary National Review on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Maldives.

Without a doubt, the 2030 Agenda is an ambitious agenda, particularly for a small island developing state such as the Maldives. It is an indivisible Agenda and it is a testament to the determined political will of the international community. I wish to assure the global community the importance Maldives accords to the sustainable development agenda. It is enshrined in our Constitution, and the Government of Maldives is committed to mainstreaming the elements of sustainable development in its plans, policies and strategies.

Mr. Chairman:



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The Voluntary National Review of Maldives to HLPF 2017 will voice out the challenges faced by Maldives as a small island developing state, and the efforts made towards overcoming these challenges through innovation, strategic long term policies and collaborative decision-making processes. We recognize that both innovation and participation of various stakeholders is critical particularly given the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs.

The implementation process of the 2030 Agenda in the Maldives is built upon the successful implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the country. I am proud to say that Maldives is the first country in South Asia which attained MDG-plus status. We consider the 2030 Agenda as a continuation of our efforts under MDGs. We remain committed to consolidate the gains made throughout the MDG process and intensify our efforts in areas where progress have been slower. In this vein, additional efforts have to be made in areas such as empowering women, strengthening mechanisms of good governance and justice, minimizing economic disparity and sustainable consumption and production in order to consolidate the gains made in health, education, water and sanitation, energy, infrastructure, climate change and marine resources.

Maldives has already initiated work and thus far have given keen attention to promoting a conducive environment for the implementation of the SDGs, including through the institutionalization of adequate coordination and governance mechanism.

As such, a National Ministerial Coordination Committee has been formed to provide policy guidance and feedback from different sectors at a ministerial level, and to ensure the integration of socio-economic, and environmental aspects of the Global Goals.



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The technical committee for the SDGs implementation was formed with representatives from various government offices and state agencies who will provide technical support, expertise and knowledge from their respective sectors.

Maldives recognizes the importance of stakeholder engagement and participation in the substantive realization of SDGs. Therefore, emphasis has been made on creating awareness and engaging stakeholders throughout the implementation process. Focused awareness sessions are planned for the 3rd quarter of 2017 for the general public including parliamentarians, local councilors, and the judiciary, as well as NGOs.

With the completion of stock taking of available data by the National Bureau of Statistics, commencing the work of identifying national priorities is currently in progress. Identification of national priorities for the SDGs targets will be made through a process of consultations with implementing agencies as well as input from other development partners. Development of a monitoring framework is planned for the last quarter of 2017. The framework will be developed to monitor and report the achievements of the SDGs targets in the implementation process. The development of this Framework will, however, require technical assistance and financial support.

Mr. Chairman:

Given the unique vulnerabilities faced as a low-lying island nation, Maldives require financial and technical support from its international development partners. The lack of capacity, necessary equipment and



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modern tools particularly in the area of data collection and management remain as major hurdles in the implementation process.

Mr. Chairman:

Before I conclude, I would like to once again reaffirm the commitment of Maldives to the Global Goals and in this respect remain devoted to the transparent follow-up and review of the implementation process.

Finally, I will conclude with a video presentation depicting the success and status of sustainable development agenda in the Maldives. It will focus on the areas of climate change, building resilient infrastructure including the provision of safe drinking water and improved sanitation and energy, universal health care and education.

I thank you for your attention.