



**National Statement delivered by Mr. Hassaan Mohamed
Deputy Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy
at the
High-level Segment of the Sixth Session of United Nations
Environment Assembly
29th February 2024**

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Madam. President of UNEA 6,
Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen.

Assalam Alaikum, and a very good evening to all of you.

At the outset, let me express my gratitude to the government of the People's Republic of Kenya and the Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme for the excellent arrangements to welcome us to UNEA 6 at the Global Environment Capital.

It is a true pleasure and a privilege for me to be a part of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to address the significant theme "Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution."



For Maldives, a small island developing state, we are trying to survive in this world with the triple planetary crisis. Maldives is a country that is highly dependent on our biological diversity and natural ecosystems. These ecosystems not only contribute to our economy and aesthetic beauty but also play a significant role in our fight against the impacts of climate change. We are highly vulnerable to rising sea levels, storm surges, wave attacks, plus their compound effects leading to coastal erosion and inundation events. Coral bleaching due to extreme heat reducing our natural resilience and adaptation capacity is also a major concern.

Furthermore, pollution and waste management are undoubtedly among the most challenging issues we face. Uncontrollable amounts of plastics and waste are killing our marine life and polluting our environment. Though we are trying to meet the service demand, we still have a long way to go to overcome them.

Excellencies/Distinguished Delegates.

We Maldivians do not wish to stand idly while our ecosystems are dying. Recognizing the urgent action that is needed to conserve our fragile habitats, Maldives is doing its part. We are currently working on a national adaptation plan. We have also assigned 91 protected areas across the country, including three biosphere reserves. We are working to double the number of biosphere reserves across Maldives and establish nature parks in each atoll of Maldives by 2028 to manage these areas effectively. Also, with a greater mitigation ambition, we aim to increase the renewable



energy systems that can meet thirty-three percent of the country's electricity demand in the next five years.

Addressing the triple planetary crisis requires building human capacity, strengthening institutional arrangements, and providing adequate financing for developing countries, especially for small island developing states like us.

We believe that regional as well as global cooperation are vital to achieving our shared goal of protecting the one earth we have. As such, let me emphasize the importance of collaboration amongst MEAs, UNEP, science-policy panels, and platforms to address the environmental challenges that extend beyond national borders. Indeed the resolutions we are adopting here at UNEA6 will be another step forward in addressing the triple planetary crisis a beacon of hope for vulnerable countries such as Maldives.

Thank you very much.