

Mr. Enrico Gaveglia, UN Resident Coordinator a.i. in Maldives
Opening Remarks for the Event “Our Climate, Our Present, Our Future”

Wednesday, 20 October 2021

09:00 – 14:00

Malé, the Maldives

Minister of Environment, Climate Change & Technology, Honourable Aminath Shauna
British High Commissioner for Maldives Her Excellency, Caron Roshler
UN Colleagues, Government and private sector leaders and young people of Maldives.

Thank you to everyone for joining us today, for this special event “Our Climate, Our Present, Our Future”, aiming to highlight the climate vulnerability of countries like Maldives. Impacts of climate change and the pandemic have worsened the vulnerability of our health systems, economies and food systems. SIDS face heightened risks in terms of sea-level rise, ecosystem degradation, extreme weather events and drastic changes to life underwater. This in turn poses increasing, unique risks to the future of island nations – which we will hand over to our future leaders, our young people of today.

This event gives us an opportunity at a crucial time ahead of COP26, to come together with young people to ensure their participation in our climate action and sustainable development efforts. The UN Maldives signed the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) earlier this month. This Framework dated 2022 – 2026 will be the blueprint for all UN efforts with the Government of Maldives for the next 5 years, with one main strategic priority area being working towards a sustainable and climate resilient environment.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres said, “The window of opportunity to prevent the worst impacts of the climate crisis is closing quickly. We know what needs to be done and we have the tools to do it.” And for that, we believe that young people’s voices are needed. From advocating for developed countries to deliver on their promise to provide \$100 billion annually in climate financing, to ensuring all actors reduce their emissions in line with the 1.5-degree goal of the Paris Agreement, we need your voices, ideas and participation. This is your conversation, your discussion. Be bold and challenge all of us with your new ideas and innovations for generating the serious change that is needed.

The UN Maldives team assures our commitment to generate action and bring in all actors and partners, especially young people in advocating for, and acting to mitigate the impacts of climate change. We remain steadfast with Maldives in our road to achieving a more resilient future that values the role of young people in achieving sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.