



Remarks
By Akiko Fujii, UNDP Resident Representative
at UNDP and Ministry of Foreign Affairs PPEs Handover Ceremony
8 November 2020
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Male Maldives

Honourable Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdulla Shahid,
Other senior government officials,
UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Catherine Haswell,
UNICEF Representative, Mr. Munir Safieldin, Ms. Shadiya, Dr. Sushil, other UN colleagues,
ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

I am extremely pleased to be here today to present, on behalf of UNDP, Personal Protective Equipment for frontline health workers, in support of the government's COVID-19 prevention measures. Also, I am honoured to handover a gift of one million masks that UNDP has secured through the generosity of our private sector partner, Teochew International Federation. In consultation with the government, these one million masks will be used by local tourism operators.

I would like to commend the government of Maldives for its immense efforts in responding to the COVID crisis. I am particularly pleased today, that with this support, in addition to protecting health workers, the government and UNDP will effectively protect local tourism workers. As local tourism entities begin to re-open, PPEs will be critical in reducing transmission risks and minimizing the potential for the pandemic to escalate. It is important to ensure that those on the frontlines are protected, and that business continuity is supported in order to restore the country's economy and people's livelihoods - especially in the islands.

Working together as One UN and with our sister agencies, UNDP looks forward to continuing our effective support and partnerships with the government and the people of Maldives to Build Forward Better.

Thank you.

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