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Embassy of the Republic of Maldives



Statement delivered by H.E Mr. Ahmed Zuhair, Minister of State of Transport and Civil Aviation

**Agenda item 3. (b) Major issues in transport in Environmentally sustainable transport systems and services;
21 November 2022**

Dear Chairperson, Distinguished delegates, and attendees.
Good morning and Assalam aliakum,

The Maldives being a vulnerable state to climate change, we set out a plan to reduce our emissions and decarbonize by 2030. Hence, the plan to implement more environmentally friendly transportation methods. To enable this, strategies have been laid out in the National Strategic Action Plan.

We have now established a minibus project which would feed into the broader land public transport network. The minibuses would be electric vehicles, and this is going to be a project that's first of its kind.

We are also observing an increase in trends across the world with e-scooters, electric bikes and singular use electric vehicles that are making its way to the transport network. I am glad to announce that we will be enabling the use of those methods and review the legislations which cover the usage of those vehicles.

Along with the legislation, one of the most important areas of focus must be the infrastructure. Green transport is sustainable, great for the environment but also require investment into the infrastructure. The Maldives is actively looking for partners to form a relationship to pilot projects in the Maldives in relation to Greener, cost effective and sustainable transport solutions. The Maldives' population being under 500,000 gives the opportunity for us to be a great sample size to experiment with new technology and methods.

To sustain the transportation system and ensure its longevity, countries should have a holistic approach to commercialise the aspects that can be commercialised and ensure that over time, the cost of the investment is covered.

We must all know, public transport is a basic right and we, on the policy level should always fight to ensure that our people's basic rights are protected. In the Maldives we are now at the initial phase of starting the integrated ferry network which would cater the movement of passengers from island to island with comfort. In order sustain this project, we have ensured that the auxiliary services that come along are catered in the most profitable manner for example the shop at the ferry stops and restaurant at the terminals this would in turn ensure that quality of other services provided are compensated and taken care of.



To sum up, I would like to thank for the opportunity that has been given to me to address this session. I hope that I have been able to give you an overview and contribute to the topics of discussion. I would once again like to reiterate that the Maldives is open for investments and partnerships in Transportation and would happily welcome those interested with open arms.
