

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



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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 2. Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific
21 November 2022**

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

This meeting is a very encouraging event which the Maldives welcomes in full force. After the fourth Ministerial conference on Transport held in 2021, the participants of that conference adopted the declaration on sustainable transport development in Asia and the Pacific 2022 – 2026.

Today we are here to review its implementation and raise issues which all countries would like to highlight. This is progress. Progress which is coordinated and efficiently managed.

On behalf of the People of the Maldives and the Government, I thank the secretariat for the arrangements and the hospitality extended to us.

Hon. Chairperson

As we all know, at the 78th session of the ESCAP, the members adopted the resolution on implementation of the ministerial declaration and requested the executive secretary to prioritize the implementation of the declaration. This showed the commitment of all the members to ensure that the important issues of transport policies are at the forefront of our agenda.

While the regional action plan aligns with multiple UN SDGs, such as Zero Hunger, Gender Equality, Sustainable cities and communities, Climate Action, and Reduced inequalities. This is a reaffirmation that the work done here not only enhances Transport related actions, but also benefits communities and the people in a more holistic manner.

The Regional Action Program is specifically geared towards advancing three overarching objectives: efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth; environmentally sustainable transport systems and services; and safe and inclusive transport and mobility.

Given the short span of time, we are content with the implementation and the preparatory work that has been done to ensure that implementation of certain time-consuming actions is underway, and the



secretariat has provided for systemic and regular exchanges of best practices and experiences between the members and also allowed for resources to be mobilized for strategic partnership including funds, capital and human resources capacity enhancement.

As I close, I would like to pledge the full commitment of the Maldives to the issues at hand, in providing support to regional partners and ensure that the ministerial declaration is implemented to its full capacity to maximize the impact and achieve the outcomes agreed.

Thank you, Chairperson.
