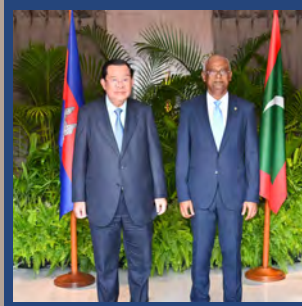


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OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE MALDIVES BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF CAMBODIA

The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, undertook an official visit to the Maldives from 15-16 January 2023 at the invitation of H.E. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

During the visit, President Solih met with Prime Minister Hun Sen and held official talks on strengthening bilateral cooperation, followed by the exchange of six MoUs between the two countries, demonstrating a pivotal point of progress in bilateral relations between the two countries.

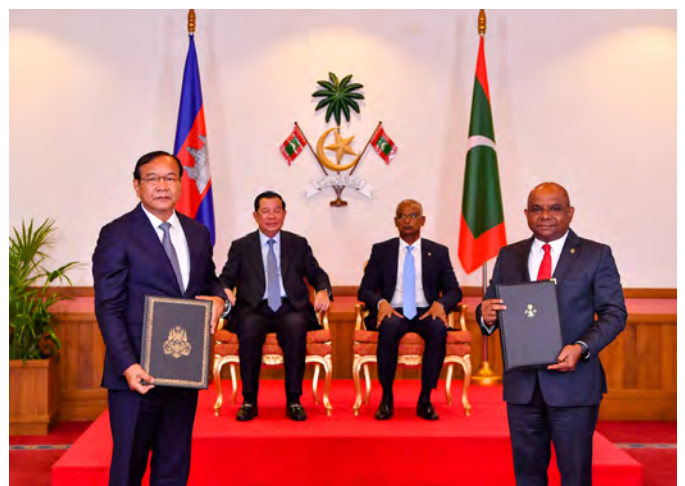
The MoUs signed during the visit are listed below.

1. The Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic, Official, and Ordinary Passports
2. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Bilateral Consultations
3. Agreement on Economic Cooperation
4. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Health Cooperation
5. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tourism Cooperation
6. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Maldives National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce



President Solih and Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen delivered a joint statement on the outcomes of their discussions and issued a Joint Communiqué between the two countries.

President Solih during the Joint Press statement delivered, outlined the exchange of six bilateral agreements signed between the two countries, expressing hope for a renewed commitment to greater cooperation, especially on international issues of mutual interest. President particularly emphasized the engagements at the United Nations (U.N.) and other international organisations, working together towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), common perspectives on climate change, and issues relating to international peace and security.

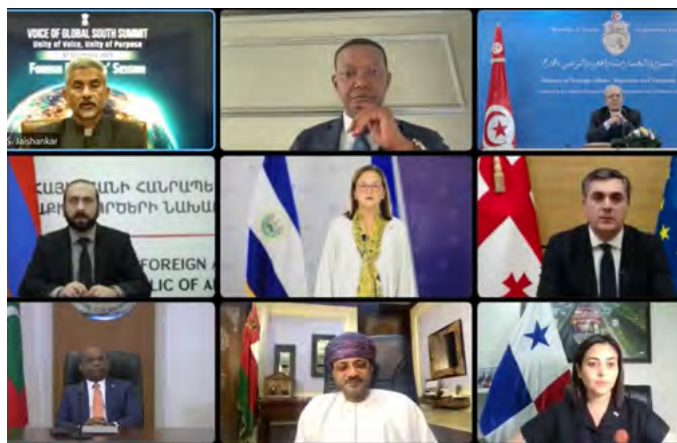


FOREIGN MINISTER SHAHID WELCOMES INDIA'S INITIATIVE TO CHAMPION ISSUES CENTRAL TO THE GLOBAL SOUTH AT THE VOICE OF THE SOUTH SUMMIT

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdulla Shahid, participated virtually on 12 January 2023, in the Voice of the South Summit convened by the Government of India.

Speaking at the session entitled “Priorities of the Global South – Ensuring a Conducive Environment”, Foreign Minister Shahid congratulated India on assuming Presidency of the Group of Twenty (G20) and welcomed this initiative by India to give a platform for the Global South to share concerns and discuss solutions to shared challenges.

Foreign Minister Shahid stated that rising levels of public debt, the climate crisis and commodity price fluctuation as some of the key challenges facing countries in the Global South and expressed confidence in India's Presidency of the G20 to find transformative solutions to these issues. He also noted the opportunity the Summit brings for developing countries, especially non-G20 members, to fight inequality through strengthened and revived South-South partnerships.



OFFICIAL VISIT OF MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDIA

The Minister of External Affairs of India His Excellency Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar undertook an official visit to the Maldives from 18-19 January 2023. During the visit Minister of External Affairs called on the President of Maldives, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and met with his counterpart, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdulla Shahid, where both Ministers reviewed the development cooperation projects and discussed strengthening of collaboration in various avenues.



Foreign Minister Shahid and External Affairs Minister, Dr. Jaishankar witnessed the exchange of three key agreements.

1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Republic of Maldives and Government of India for additional grant assistance of 100 million Rufiyaa for the High Impact Community Development Project scheme
2. Memorandum of Understanding for development of a sports complex in Gaafu Dhaal Gadhdhoo
3. Memorandum of Understanding on capacity building to facilitate exchanges and co-operative initiative between the two universities in the area of education, research, development instruction, community service, staff and student exchanges.



Official talks was held on 18 January 2023



Signing of the MoU on the development of a sports complex in Gaafu Dhaal Gadhdhoo



During the visit President Solih and the Minister of External Affairs of India formally broke ground on the Hanimaadhoo International Airport Expansion Project, the largest and one of the most significant projects to be initiated outside the Male' region



Minister of External Affairs of India and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives jointly inaugurated the Shaviyani Foakaidhoo Community Centre, a project completed under the Indian grant assistance scheme.



Foreign Minister Shahid delivers remarks at the inauguration of the Foakaidhoo Community Centre

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER

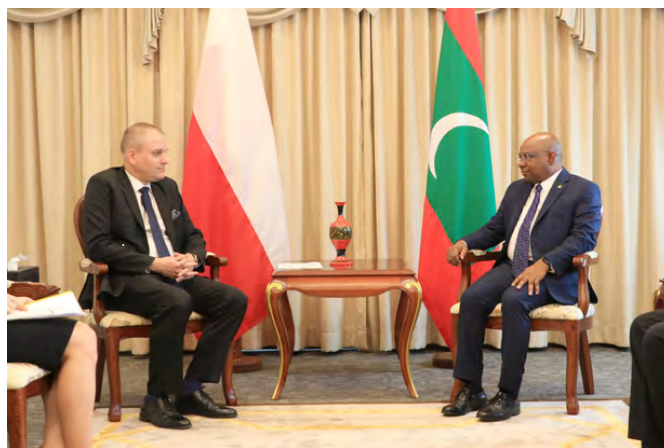
The Permanent Representative of the United States (U.S.) to the United Nations Human Rights Council Michèle Taylor, paid a courtesy call on Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid, on 15 January 2023. During the meeting, Minister Shahid and Ambassador Taylor exchanged views on areas of priority for both countries in the field of human rights, and deliberated further on their respective memberships at the Human Rights Council.



AMBASSADOR OF POLAND TO MALDIVES PAYS A FAREWELL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER

The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Maldives, Adam Burakowski, paid a farewell call on Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid, on 31 January 2023.

Foreign Minister Shahid congratulated the Ambassador on the completion of his successful tenure and expressed appreciation for his role in strengthening the bilateral ties between Maldives and Poland.



MALDIVES ASSUMES MEMBERSHIP OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL FOR THE TERM 2023-2025

The Maldives begins its membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the term 2023-2025 at the start of the year. Maldives won a seat at the Human Rights Council following the elections held on 11 October 2022, in New York.

The Maldives membership will be guided by the principles of human rights, democracy and good governance and climate action, which underlies the basic principles of Maldives foreign policy. During the three years of membership, Maldives will strive to advance key areas of human rights in the true spirit of multilateralism. The Maldives membership will contribute towards strengthening of national mechanisms and government institutions at all levels to mainstream and uphold human rights.

The Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva Dr Asim Ahmed, will also serve as the Vice President of the Human Rights Council for 2023 representing the Asia Pacific Group.



MALDIVES DELIVERS STATEMENT AT THE UNSC OPEN DEBATE ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION

Deputy Permanent Representative Dr. Ibrahim Zuhuree delivered a statement at the UNSC Open Debate on 'the Situation in the Middle East Including the Palestinian Question' on 18 January 2023.

In his statement, DPR Zuhuree alerted that on 3rd January, Itamar Ben-Gvir, the recently appointed Israeli National Security Minister, stormed the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque with a large contingent of forces. Emphasizing that the Maldivian Government denounces this highly provocative action, he noted forceful entry violates all norms, escalates tension around the Holy Sites, provokes violence, and threatens to change the identity and legal and historic status quo of Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

Further, DPR Zuhuree reiterated Maldives' steadfast support for any resolution which outlines the formation of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine established on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. He said the Maldives firmly believe this is the only viable solution to ensure an end to the conflict so that the people of both Palestine and Israel can enjoy meaningful and enduring peace and live side by side with dignity.



MALDIVES PARTICIPATES IN THE FIFTH INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT HELD IN GENEVA

The Fifth Intersessional Meeting of the Human Rights Council on Human Rights and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was held in Geneva on 19 January 2023. The theme of the meeting was “Overcoming multiple crises: realising the SDGs through a human right enhancing economy”.

During the session, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the UN Office in Geneva, His Excellency Dr. Asim Ahmed, delivered a statement and highlighted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be the guiding framework to end poverty, to protect the planet, and to ensure peace and security for all. He further stated that the promotion and protection of human rights is one of the integral pillars of the Maldivian foreign policy and as a member of the Human Rights Council, the Maldives will continue to advocate for the promotion and protection of human rights at home and abroad.



MALDIVES UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES IN SOLVING COMMON CHALLENGES AT THE 2023 ECOSOC PARTNERSHIP FORUM

The Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations, Ambassador Thilmeeza Hussain, delivered a statement at the 2023 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Partnership Forum on accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels, on 31 January 2023.

In her statement, Ambassador Thilmeeza emphasised that the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on Maldives’ economy and demonstrated the impacts of a steep and sudden contraction on its critical tourism industry. She stated that Maldives recognized that economic recovery required even and fair vaccination; increased health spending and strong measures in place to contain the outbreak; while supporting vulnerable households and businesses most affected by the crises. In addition, Ambassador Thilmeeza said that the pandemic compounded aspects of gender equality as women bore the brunt from the economic fallout of the pandemic, and reiterated Maldives’ call that sustainable development cannot be achieved without the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women in all facets of life.



NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR OF MALDIVES TO NORWAY PRESENTS HER LETTER OF CREDENCE TO THE KING OF NORWAY

The Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the Federal Republic of Germany, Her Excellency Aishath Shaan Shakir, presented her Letter of Credence to His Majesty King Harald V, King of Norway as the Non-Resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Maldives to the Kingdom of Norway at a ceremony held at the Royal Palace in Oslo on 26 January 2023.

During her visit to Norway, Ambassador Shaan held discussions with Mr. Vegar Brynildsen, Deputy Secretary General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and senior officials of the Ministry to explore potential avenues of collaboration in areas such as climate change, sustainable development, waste management, blue economy and education among others.



AMBASSADOR OF MALDIVES TO BELGIUM, OMAR ABDUL RAZZAK PRESENTS HIS LETTER OF CREDENCE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, URSULA VON DER LEYEN

The Ambassador of Maldives to the European Union, Omar Abdul Razzak, presented his Letter of Credence to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, on 26 January 2023.

During the meeting that followed the ceremony, Ambassador Omar conveyed personal greetings and best wishes from President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. He also stressed on the close ties between the Maldives and EU and reiterated the commitment to continue to foster the excellent bilateral relations and close cooperation with the EU.



AMBASSADOR OF MALDIVES TO BELGIUM, OMAR ABDUL RAZZAK, PRESENTS HIS LETTER OF CREDENCE TO THE GRAND DUKE HENRI OF LUXEMBOURG

The newly appointed Ambassador of Maldives to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Omar Abdul Razzak, presented his Letter of Credence to His Royal Highness the Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg on 18 January 2023.

During the private audience following the Credential Ceremony, Ambassador Omar assured The Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg of his commitment to work closely with the Government of Luxembourg to strengthen the close bilateral relations and foster stronger ties between the two countries.



FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE OF MALDIVES COMMENCES ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR NEW RECRUITS

The Foreign Service Institute of Maldives commenced its orientation programme for new recruits on 5 January 2023. During the program the participants will be briefed on the Foreign Policy, Diplomatic Language and communication, Organization Structure and Departments of Ministry, Bilateral Relations, Multilateral Affairs, Budgeting and Management, Protocol and Etiquettes training.



FOSIM HOLDS BRIEFING SESSION ON THE NEW PROCEDURES ON DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AT VELANA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



The Foreign Service Institute of Maldives in coordination with the Protocol Department held a briefing session to familiarize Ministry staff on the new procedures on Diplomatic Privileges at Velana International Airport on 25 January 2023.



The briefing on the new VIP guidelines was provided by Chief of Protocol H.E. Ahmed Shiaan.