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مَرْبُوعٌ مَوْسِرٌ وَرَبُّهُ رَاقِسٌ

Good morning, welcome to our committee. Unfortunately, few of our members are attached with other committees. It's ongoing right now. So, the numbers is a bit less compared to the last time. So, we would like to welcome the Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Pek Chuan Gun, Assistant Resident Representative Kadheeja Hamid, Portfolio Manager Rizma Rasheed, Program Analyst Shadha Hussain to this committee. Actually, we scheduled this committee on a request from the UNDP regarding our previous engagement with on our request to the UNDP. So, since we are we are really glad and excited to have your presentation. Thank you.

Thank you, Chair, and thank you for the opportunity for us to engage with the committee again. Today we are excited to also, you know to share with you, some of the latest updates about our disaster risk resilience portfolio and the opportunity for us to collaborate further on this subject. Yeah. So, I think perhaps we can start, is there a

presentation? Yeah. So, we will have some presentation, a very short one you know, just to guide our discussion. So, overall UNDP in the Maldives we work in three main areas. First is in areas of inclusive sustainable and thriving livelihoods where we focus a lot of sustainable economic growth, where we support also the government to create fiscal space by looking at any areas that can reduce public spending. I mean managing the public spending more effectively. Currently we do have about procurement on initiative in collaboration with Ministry of Finance. We also look at areas where we look at helping the community's livelihood through our small grants' programs and any innovation grants facilities. And second area is on the sustainable natural resource management and climate resilience. I mean, which is very aligned with the mandates of this committee. And third of course later my colleagues will give you more details about this area of work. And third is participatory and of course accountable governance for and also by the people. Where we are also very close with the parliament and the secretary through our practice parliament series and I'm sure you're very well aware that every year we are here at the Majlis you know, have this organizing the practice parliament. And also, civic engagement programs we have local cities' councils. So, with that I'm going to pass to my colleague Khadee to further elaborate on our work in the area of natural resources and climate resilience.

UNDPs Assistant Resident Representative Khadeeja Hamid Speaking:

Thank you, Pek Chuan. And as Pek Chuan mentioned, it's really nice to be able to come back to the committee and to engage. Specifically, on how we can work with the committee on climate change in related areas. So, thank you for the opportunity. So, I just wanted to before we go into the details of our disaster response management portfolio just also wanted to take this opportunity to give you an overview of all the different areas that we focus on under the sustainable natural resource and climate resilience priority area under a country program under UNDP's on-going country program. So, we have four main outcomes that we are focusing on. One is reduction in carbon footprint in private sectors, enhancing capacities to integrate disaster response management and climate adaptation and mitigation into development planning. And this is the outcome under which our disaster response management portfolio is paid with. And then we also work with government stakeholders and other stakeholders to strengthen policy and regulatory framework and capacities for sustainable management of water and waste. And the fourth outcome area is increase engagement of civil society organization communities' and individuals on climate action. So, these are the four



main outcomes that we focus on under our climate portfolio. And we have currently fourteen different projects which we have actually themed into a group into sub thematic portfolios. So, we have, we focus of sustainable food systems, disaster risk management, pollution prevention, conservation, energy transition and blue economy. So, this is sort of a snapshot of all of the areas that we focus under the climate program. So, we wanted to actually look into and provide a detailed look into our disaster risk management portfolio. And this is the engagement that we have come to the parliament with is also one that falls under this portfolio. So, under our disaster risk management portfolio, we work both with rights holders as well as duty bearers to strengthen early warning systems to enhance preparedness and response capacities and to also mainstream risk informed planning and decision making. So, this is through projects and activities that is providing infrastructure capacities, equipment as well as capacity building activities for government stakeholders at the national and the sub-national level to integrate disaster risk planning into development planning overall. And then we also focus on duty bearers. So, we have also worked with stakeholders like the National Disaster Management Authority to publish public facing platforms that will enhance, that will empower the communities to be more prepared for disasters. I will actually handover to Rizma who is going to give you a more detailed look into the specific project under which we are hoping to engage with parliament. Thank you.

UNDPs Portfolio Manager Rizma Rasheed speaking:

Thank you Khadhee. We have currently 3 projects in the disaster and risk reduction portfolio in the Maldives. We work with government stakeholders, Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Maldives Meteorological Services. We also work with National Disaster Management Authority and Ministry of Finance and Construction Ministry as well. This particular project that we have to present to the Majlis is the risk informed development in small islands developing states project. The project aims to strengthen the governance systems to better anticipate and prepare national and sub-national responders to respond to disaster and climate risk. The project is supported through the UNDP funding window, funds contributed through the government of Denmark, Luxembourg and Republic of Korea. This project is a regional project which is implemented in Seychelles, Timor-Leste and in the Maldives. The Maldives component for the project is a combination of governance and institutional capacity building and also helping to embed disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development of national and sub-national planning in decision-making processes while



also promoting inclusivity, gender equality and also accountability within the policies and the frameworks and also the actions that is being implemented. UNDP Maldives is implementing partner. We are working with the National Disaster Management Authority for implementation of this project. I will just go through, because this is a project of six hundred and forty thousand dollars which is being implemented since 2024 and to be completed in May 2026. But we have 4 outcomes that we have in the project. Just to give you an overview of what are the things that we are doing through the project before we go to the proposal. Just we have the first outcome which is focused on integrating risk governance and that is to strengthen capacity and climate risk informed development capacities like I mentioned into the national and sub-national levels. This is particularly to set incentives for risk reduction and climate change adaptation and resilience building. Through this outcome we have training and capacity development activity focused on gender equality and inclusivity as well and for national and local government officials, key stakeholders and practitioners on how we can actually incorporate disaster climate risk information into sectorial development and also for legislative and frameworks. Our second outcome is to strengthen gender equality which is also one of the top priority areas that we focus on to empower women and leadership through community-based resilience building. Under this outcome, we actually have two activities that we are currently doing. We are, there has been community-based disaster reduction framework, which was established in 2014, currently with a national consultant working with national disaster management authority we are doing a revision of the framework to see what are the challenges or what are the barriers that is in the existing framework and to refine it according to the national priorities and the development plans in a more gender equal, gender inclusive a way as well. So, this is currently on going. We have the consultant on board as well and expected to be completed by March of 2026. We are also supporting the local community and tourism industry with strengthening preparedness in capacities by planning, by developing a practitioners guidance toolkit, which talks about disaster management and climate change adaptation and training program focused for the tourism sector. This will include tourism guesthouses and the hotel as well in the Maldives. This activity is expected to be implemented early February next year as well. Outcome three disaster and climate risk information, we have actually a progressed these two activities where we have digitalized the post disaster needs, where we have actually launched the risk information and community engagement website campaign, which we have launched under the name “Hushiyaaru”. The website is already public



and it is one of the first websites which came with the persons with disabilities accessibility, and which comes in seven languages in the website as well. We are also working to digitize the post disaster needs assessment. Which is currently a platform that NDMA has with in sub-national level and internal back end for NDMA where they are in updating all the disasters and losses as it happens. But now what we are trying to do with NDMA and a consultant is actually to create a public facing model where people are able to understand disaster wise losses and on island level, what are the impacts and what are the challenges or what are the risk factors financial aid that has been given to after disaster. We also have the early warning and preparedness outcome, which is a fourth and final outcome of the project. This is to strengthen early warning and preparedness system capacities to support early action to first responders in the Maldives. So, under this outcome we have actually done a procurement of five categories first responder's equipment's, as you can see, firefighting, marine and water rescue, medical response, field operations and personal protective equipment. We have procured approximately around individual 2,000 equipment's under these five categories. And we are in the current state of delivering these equipment's to Maldives Police Services, who acts as a first responder in case of an emergency or disaster. So, we are looking forward to actually doing the final handover of these equipment's second week of December as well. What we have here, proposal to the Environment and Climate Change Committee is under the output one which I just explained on the risk governance as well, a capacity building workshop for the parliament and the key stakeholders of the government as well. This is to strengthen an understanding of disaster and climate risk governance, the legislative role in advancing resilience, risk-informed policy and fostering dialogue into inclusive decision making. Why we have actually, why we're actually proposing this to the Environment and Climate Change Committee is because there's a lot of rapid development and, but also, we're seeing a lot of climate and disaster risk currently happening in the country. We feel that this initiative and this capacity building needs to be something focused in the policy making, decision-making level as well. And Parliament plays a very strong role in shaping how these policies are actually incorporated and also how we can actually communicate it with, to the local community as well. So, we have bit of what the training will cover as well. We will be doing this in a Maldives context and to understand the landscape and the systematic vulnerabilities and how we can incorporate risk-informed development into all the sectors within the community and also the government frameworks like land use, housing, environment, agriculture, fisheries and, also, the infrastructure component



as well. We'll also be looking at shaping the policies, what are the current policies that we have in place, what are the current challenges or barriers that we have in incorporating climate change adaptation and, also, disaster risk reduction. So, we'll be going through the budgets or what are the risk assessments or the financial frameworks that we can actually look into. Mostly looking at climate scenario analysis and, also, screening the risk and governance and institutional mapping. Yes, I think this is what we have and ultimately the, our project is led by UNDP Geneva team as well, working closely with the Maldives Country Office. So, we are very ambitious to actually bring out champions of resilience and risk informed national development within the parliament who can help us to advocate and who can be a voice for the local community and, also to the national and sub-national level to talk about disaster risk reduction and, also, climate change adaptation. Because as Maldives faces Maldives is very vulnerable to climate change. We need to make sure that this is something that is voiced and spoken at policy level as well. So, we become prepared for a better resilient Maldives in the future as well. Thank you.

Chairman speaking:

Thank you very much. It is indeed a very exciting project and what you have been doing so far is marvelous. And we, definitely our committee will give our maximum support to make this a reality and bring out more environment champions to talk about as you have requested. And, fortunately, I finally got an opportunity to be in COP30, and I'm also very excited with all what had happened there. So, we will try our best and just let us know what we need to give, what kind of support you request from us, our committee or from the parliament itself.

UNDPs Assistant Resident Representative Khadeeja Hamid Speaking:

Yeah. Thank you, Chair and thank you for your willingness and openness to engage. I think one of the things that we were actually hoping to do in this meeting or maybe even in subsequent meeting, while we have an outline of some of the areas that we are hoping to cover in this training. I think what would also be useful is if we could hear from your perspective some of the areas that you would like to see to be covered in this capacity-building opportunity. And what we are really hoping is also for the Climate Change Committee if the committee could actually be the driving force for this activity within the larger parliament. So really looking forward to your thoughts and guidance



on how we can get more members on board. As well as how we can make this very very impactful and meaningful for the committee and the larger Majlis.

Chairman speaking:

Okay. I'll open the floor to any of the committee members who would like to engage in the conversation. Mamdooh, from Funadhoo Constituency.

Funadhoo Constituency member Mohamed Mamdooh speaking:

Thank you Chair and team. My question is, in this document, that I have seen about these e-learning modules. How will the training curriculum ensure practical applicability to local planning process and regulatory frameworks? Because the question is based because we have amended our decentralization act recently and I hope there will be several changes and that can be applicable and linked to this work.

UNDPs Assistant Resident Representative Khadeeja Hamid Speaking:

Thank you for the question. I think while we take note of the amendments that has been brought to the local government act, sorry, the decentralization act, there are also multiple other avenues through which planning happen at a national level as well as at the local level, right? And the parliament also actually plays a very, very important oversight role in guiding these planning processes. So, this capacity building activity which we are hoping to engage with parliament is a good first step in which we can actually ensure that all planning activities at all level are informed by disaster risk reduction strategies as well as climate change adaptation strategies. And then in addition to members of the parliament, we are also actually hoping to engage other stakeholders involved in disaster risk management so, at the national level and at the sub-national level. So, the national level the Disaster Management Authority, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Maldives Police Service as well as the Ministry of Construction and Public Works. But also, at the sub-national level the island councils as well. And there would be an opportunity for us to also hopefully engage the Local Government Authority. Which will, you know, they work very closely with the local councils in terms of driving the local planning processes. So, through embedding these concepts first at the very, very top level we are actually hoping that this will be a good first step in terms of integrating these concepts into not only the actual formulation of these plans. But also, you know the, into the over-site processes of these plans as well. I'll also invite other colleagues to add anything.



I also wanted to add. Thank you Khadhee. I think like Khadhee mentioned this is the first workshop that we are, capacity building workshop that we are planning to do in the Maldives focused specifically for the policymakers. But we have been working on DRR for quite some time, and we understand how challenging it is for the community as well to grasp the concept of being prepared. Anticipatory action, preparedness, this is not something that is something that comes very naturally. We understand that it needs to be the policymakers, it needs to come from the champions like I mentioned, the champions. Especially when we are trying to get the councils or the local level, the island communities prepared for any disaster or risk that may happen, anticipatory action. I think it needs to really come from policymakers, and this is the first step that we are trying to bring to the community, make noise around, advocate for. And our next step would also be to engage the newly elected local government, local council, after the local council election. That would be our next step on how we can actually incorporate this awareness and also talk about what are the challenges that we currently have. Because I understand that we already have a disaster management act. We have many legislations and frameworks in the Maldives. But how challenging it is for us to actually make it work, that is where we would like to have the discussion. And also, for the policymakers with the government key stakeholders to talk about what can be done better to support preparedness and disaster risk reduction capacity or capacity building in the Maldives. So, this would be our first very ambitiously looking forward to creating champions through this. And also, then work up onto the sub-national level as a second phase of the workshop that we will be consulting, conducting. Sorry! Thank you.

Mamdhooh.

As you have mentioned about the local council election which would be held, I think on April or at the end of March. There will be like more than 1300 council members, presidents, mayors and WDC members. It's a huge number if we are talking about Maldives population which is below 500000. It's about 188 islands. My question is there will be certain methodologies that you have already adapted and you have been



practicing. My question is what are the methodologies that are being used to assess current capacity gaps? As you have mentioned about sub-national level, my question is based on this. What are the current capacity gaps among sub-national governments? That's, how the Maldives is formed based on that.

UNDPs Portfolio Manager Rizma Rasheed speaking:

Like I mentioned there's one activity that is currently going on to review the existing community-based disaster CBD, disaster management framework. So, we have actually received the first inception report from the consultant explaining what are the current situation of the framework. We are in review with our for-project team based in Geneva, and also in Bangkok regional hub. Once we are able to have a look on this and make changes then we will be focusing on the assessment side to identify what are the gaps that we have in community-based disaster risk management. So, we are in the process of doing this. Like I mentioned, the project started recently. And we have actually been able to start implementation of the project since July of the year. So, we have been working with National Disaster Management Authority to identify what are the gaps because they are our primary partners in this particular project. So, we are working with NDMA to identify what are the gaps and challenges that they already have within implementation. But we also have two other projects under disaster risk reduction, where we are working with Maldives Meteorological Authority. Where to see what are the challenges and that they have internally to address disaster preparedness as well. We're also working with MMA currently on a natural catastrophic insurance policy feasibility study. So, there's a lot of things that we are currently doing. But I think this is also the capacity building workshop is also for us to understand from a government point of view as well on what are the current legislations, frameworks and also the challenges that we have sectorial wise. Because, within our projects, how our projects are framed is that we work with responsible partners and we are actually in constant communication with these particular stakeholders. But I think, have conducting a capacity-building at this larger scale is going to give us more insight and also help us to identify what are the gaps that we have to address based on different sectors as well. Thank you.

UNDPs Program Analyst Shadha Hussain speaking:



Also just to add to what my colleague said and to answer the gaps that are existing within the sub-national government right now. I think based on our past work and also the ongoing work one of the gaps within the sub-national government that we have discovered and are actively trying to work towards is actually the capacity gap. So, we have done in the past training modules which are now integrated into the “Kiyeveni portal” in order to create more awareness and to build the capacity of the local council members on how they can integrate disaster management and climate change information into the island level mapping and the planning that they do the master plans and everything as well. And also, how can we make it more gender responsive? How can we include the WDC as well as the councils and expand their knowledge so that they can incorporate and keep the DRR information at the back of their mind whenever they're planning anything at the island level as well. So, from the work that we have done so far, I think at the sub-national level when it comes to the councils one of the biggest gaps that we are also trying to address through our work is the capacity gap through awareness and sharing the information.

Funadhoo constituency member Mohamed Mamdhoo speaking:

Thank you. My last question it's towards this “Kiyeveni platform”. What are the; then I am sure there will be a criteria. What are the criteria's that will be used to link successful completion of these modules to local government performance metrics as they, as it's mentioned here? I just need a brief answer.

UNDPs Program Analyst Shadha Hussain speaking:

I think this is something that we are also actively trying to work on the metrics. One thing that we are doing right now is trying to, in the future to see how much the, for example, even if the modules are incorporated into the “Kiyeveni portal”, the uptake from the councils and even the new councils that will come to place. So how can we institutionalize it better? As Rizo, Rizo mentioned as well, apart from the project the project with Geneva, we have other projects ongoing within the DRR portfolio right now as well. And the exact Kiyeveni module portal this one falls under one of our other projects. So, we will try to actively address that through this project. And also, one other thing is we are trying to sort of align our work with also, the council elections and the new members as well so that we can make sure that the new council that will come in the next year are also informed and educated and part of our process.



Chairman speaking:

Thank you. Actually, I believe we need to start from the very basic. Definitely for me, I need from very basic. Because I'm very new to this topic and we are on a process of exploring more opportunities to get to know more better. So, I believe it will be more informative and more interesting for most of our members if it starts from the basics. Then they will, then we can catch up one-by-one. Maybe in the next stage we can go further. Because knowing the basics only we can start with something. So, I believe it will be the best option to start with the most basics. And when do you expect to have these workshops? Because we will be going for recess after this week and we will resume in early February. First week of Feb...

UNDPs Portfolio Manager Rizma Rasheed speaking:

Thank you Chair. We were actually hoping we could have this once the Parliament is back from recess, early February. Our plan is to get a national consultant. Sorry! International consultant on board to facilitate the workshop and also have a national facilitator who can help us to bringing the Maldives context into the training module. We'll have our Geneva UNDP team participation as well in the workshop. And I just actually returned from the training that was conducted in the Bangkok for this particular project as well. This particular project as well. So, when we did, like a mission, the project is a regional project. So, when we did the regional training as well, we started from the basics as well. So, we had government participation, 3 countries government participation in the training as well. But we also bring it to the table from the basics because it's really important that everyone understands. Like I mentioned DRR-CCA integration is also something that is very new to the Maldives. We have had a couple of challenges trying to integrate it into every conversation that we have been having as well. But I think we are making progress. How we can incorporate inclusivity and persons with disability, gender, all of these aspects will be covered in the training. What we actually wanted to request from the committee was also to let us know how the committee would like for us to conduct this training. What is the best approach that you feel?

Chairman speaking:

You may start.

UNDPs Portfolio Manager Rizma Rasheed speaking:

Thank you. We also wanted your support in understanding what is the best approach that we can actually have for this workshop. If you have any specific, thank you for mentioning that the basics is important. But if you feel like there is any specific topics that we have to cover, if there is any preference on the sectors that we need to include or stakeholders that needs to be part of this. Most importantly for also to understand from your opinion how best we can actually have it. Should it be a 1 day or can we have 2 days? Because the training that I completed was actually a 5 day training which was still not enough. But we could of course make it in a way that is best to the Maldives and also to the availability because I understand that a lot of members will also be travelling. But we also want to make sure that we have the maximum participation from the members as well and also, the key stakeholders. So, I wanted to also request from you what you on the committee feels like on how we can conduct the training and if it allows for us to have a focal point from the committee who we can work together to make this activity actually happen. Because if we are talking about implementing it in February we have a lot of work to do as well and a lot of planning that will actually go in to the actual implementation of the workshop. And we would like to work the committee to make sure that is impactful and we bring out good results out of this. So, and ask from our side also to see how best we can actually do this.

Chairman speaking:

Sure, our secretariate Adhuham will be the focal point for this. And he is always in contact with us. So, anything he needs from us we will be definitely providing and he is very, very good and responsible person. And regarding the times for me personally I believe it might be difficult if it is a ongoing two, three days. Because normally every day is a new day for parliamentarians. We have new things coming up. So, we might give commitment but unfortunately, something might happen and the numbers goes down, it will not be very good for both of our team as well. So, it will be better, I guess we have a full day from morning to evening. One day workshop will be more appropriate if we are having it in Male'. If we are having it outside, were we are stuck there then we can have it like two or three days fine.

UNDPs Portfolio Manager Rizma Rasheed speaking:

Yes. Yes. But if we have it in a resort, do you think it would be a better option for us to go out of Male' and conduct it for a full day. And we could try to work with Adhuham and the team also to see what are the topics that we can best do. I would also like to



give an opportunity to the committee if the committee would like to have any sessions incorporated into the agender where the committee would like to present as well. Because from our side we would also like to propose it to the committee to lead. Take this as an initiative from the committee as well because this is one of the first DRR-CCA related workshops that would go in to at this scale of the government as well. So, we would like to propose it to the committee to take a lead as well. We will work with the committee to frame it in away and also plan it in a way that we UNDP and Environment Committee of the Majlis that we have put this training together. I think that would be a better advocacy that we could do together to the community and the government nation priorities as well.

Chairman speaking:

I would like to note that we are very closely, and we get a lot of help from the special envoy on environment to the president and as well as the Climate Committee in the Environment Ministry. So, we will have discussion with them also which will be the best for us. Because there the supper specialist on this theme. So, we will get a discussion with them also and we will advise what we can, we will request from your side to be included the contact as well. So, most probably by end of next, what is the longest period you could give?

UNDPs Portfolio Manager Rizma Rasheed speaking:

Like, I mentioned we will initiate our preparations like we will announce for the international consultant, who can actually conduct this workshop, will work with our Geneva team and announce for the national consultant and also the international consultant. So, we'll start our preparatory works from our side, but it would be helpful if we can have some decisions and some input from your side before end of the month. December. Yes, because we will need to fine-tune the agenda and the concept of the workshop based on what is the requirement from the committee as well. So, we will need to work with the consultant to plan the content of the workshop as well.

Chairman speaking:

We will have a discussion before end of the month we will, we will definitely give outcome from our side. If there is anything else like.

UNDPs Assistant Resident Representative Khadeeja Hamid Speaking:



Chairman speaking:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّىْ اَعُوْذُ بِكَ مِنْ اَلْجُبْنِ وَالْخِلْبِ اَوَّلَ النَّوْءِ
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