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11:00 : عَزَّوَجَلَّ

مَرْحُومٌ مَرْحُومٌ وَرَحْمَةُ اللهِ وَرَحْمَتُهُ:

Thank you very much. We would like to take this opportunity to apologize for the late start since suddenly they decided to have the vote at 11. So, we have to participate in the voting. This meeting we request UNDP just to see what we can do together, what kind of help, what kind of assistance we can get for our work through UNDP. We will go through a small presentation on what we are tasked to do here. We are the Environment and Climate Change Committee, established on 11th June 2019 during the last parliament. One of the standing committee of the Peoples Majlis consists of 11 members. Some of our members are out of town because of president visit to the islands. This is the only parliament committee in the Peoples Majlis dedicated exclusively to address the environment and climate change issues. Our main mandates are to examine and study all matters related to the environment and climate change and take necessary measures, oversee the work of Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Ministry of Environmental Protection Agency, Maldives Meteorological Services, Utility Regulatory Authority, Ministry of Environment. I think it is a mistake. It should be Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Not Transport and Civil Aviation. But some of our work is related to them, also regarding some cases. Other institutions related to climate change and the environment. Advise the institution regarding their functions and fulfill other responsibilities mentioned under article 130 of standing order. Key highlights of the committee's work. Bill review, Climate Energy bill. These are the bills under our committee. Climate Emergency bill, Water and Sewerage bill, Energy bill,



Utility Regulatory Authority bill, Waste Management bill. Review climate change related resolutions, address environmental concerns raised by the public and post legislative scrutiny, last during 19th parliament with the help of WFD we did a climate emergency act post legislatures scrutiny, but the report is not out yet. And on-going initiatives we are going through the issue of unpaid environmental damages fines. We have noticed that there are like six hundred over million fines. But none of them are received. So, we want to see what is the major issues for this. And we have met all relevant authorities, and we are coming up with the report soon. And respond to concerns from islands, some of the island councils send their concerns regarding sewerage water systems in there and also, electricity issues and we have worked with them in relevant authorities to get solutions for this. We were managed to get a good solution for Velidhoo Council also recently. That's all. And we would like to give an opportunity for UNDP to.

United Nations Development Programme Deputy Resident Representative Pek Chuan Gan speaking:

Thank you very much for the invitation to this meeting, Mr. Chair. For UNDP, UNDP is the largest development agency of the United Nation's system. And we are mandated to support the countries in their advancements towards the sustainable development goals. As stipulated in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. And of course, UNDP we have our mandates to collaborate with the host country with Maldives through our country program document. Which is on the 5 years cycle. And the current cycle started in 2022 and is expected to complete in 2026, which means that we will be very soon in embarking a new formulation process of the new country program cycle, which is expected to start in 2027 and have another five-year cycle. So, the whole country program signifies our cooperation framework with, with the government of Maldives, and the mandate is very aligned with the national development priorities of the country. So, related, we are currently in the current country program, we have three main development focus or development priorities. One is on democratic governance, which we do have ongoing collaboration, very close collaboration in fact with the parliament. Yeah, so as for example, we have a practice parliament for youth and practice parliament for women series, which has been ongoing since 2021. At the same time, the second development priority areas is actually about sustainable and also inclusive economic growth, especially in the context of small island developing states and an upper middle-income country. And in these areas of work, we look at how to



have an effective public finance management and enabling financing for development, covering sectors like environment climate change, disaster risk management, as well as you know, how to make sure we can help Maldives in terms of assessing international finance through fiscal space improvement. For example, currently we do have a collaboration on bulk procurement, okay, for medicine and in or in other areas like renewable energy. The third one, of course, will be on resilience and climate change. So here we support mainly of course, we collaborate with the Ministry of Tourism Environment to look at certain policy environment, enabling conditions to help certain you know, agencies, line agencies under the ministry to enable they are better equipped to address their mandates. For example, in the area of biodiversity, so we support a country in reviewing the national biodiversity strategies and action plan and to update. So, and also to support and enhance the capacity of these public institutions in terms of fulfilling the country's obligations, with the multilateral environmental agreements. For example, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and many many other, you know, environmental treaties. So that's one. But we also look at working with the communities, the island communities in advancing some of this environmental and climate change, actions on the ground so through our small grants program and currently we also have working with the Maldives Meteorological Services and National Disaster Management Authority in advancing the work in disaster risk resilience. Of course, I will let my colleagues because they are more, they work very closely with these government counterparts and authorities. So, if you need to have more details we can elaborate further. Yeah. Thank you.

Chairman speaking:

If you want to add anything.

United Nations Development Programme Assistant Resident Representative (Governance) Yasmeen Rasheed speaking:

Thank you very much Pek Chuan. My name is Yasmeen. I am heading the governance portfolio of the UNDP Maldives country office. As Pek Chuan had briefly highlighted among the work that we are doing under the governance portfolio, our work with the People's Majlis is one of the crucial areas of our work. Practice parliament, of course is the more popular, more external facing program that has been a continued partnership from 2021 onwards. So, that is something that we are, a collaboration that we are very



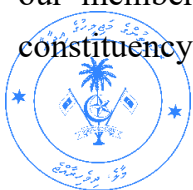
appreciative of and that has really grown over time as well. On lesser public facing work, the governance stream also has interventions in the area of connecting people with the parliament. So, for example, two of the very critical work that we are doing right now, one is on introducing an e-petitioning system to the parliament which would be, which would create a more accessible avenue for citizens to submit petitions to the parliament. Currently it's a very manual system. But we are supporting the Majlis in making it more accessible by creating this electronic pathway for e-petitioning. The second one similarly to the e-petitioning is to develop a public commenting portal which would once again transform the current commenting process that is there on bills and amendments and regulations and resolutions as well. So, both of these avenues would create further enhancement of the relationship between the Majlis and the people that itself. So, these are the main ongoing work that we have with people's Majlis. But generally, we have ongoing and consistent collaboration over the past years with the Majlis and we are certain that it will keep expanding. Thank you.

United Nations Development Programme Assistant Resident Representative (Climate Change) Khadeeja Hamid speaking:

Thank you Pek Chuan and Yasmeen. My name is Khadeeja. I am currently heading the climate change and resilience unit at UNDP. I think Pek Chuan has already highlighted some of the major ways in which we work with the government, especially in the area of climate change and resilience. A lot of these interventions actually fall under 4 main priority areas. One is reducing carbon footprint in priority sectors, enhancing climate change, climate resilience and DRR concepts into development planning. And as well as working with various sectorial ministries to strengthen policies, regulatory framework on sustainable waste and water management. And then as Pek Chuan mentioned we also have an arm of work that is operating at the ground level through our small grants program, so increasing engagement of civil society, communities and individuals on climate action. We work not only with the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, but with multitude of partners on all of these areas. Very happy to go into details if you have any specific questions. Thank you.

Chairman speaking:

Thank you, Ms. Pek Chuan, Yasmin and Khadeeja. Now I will open the floor to any of our members who might have any questions. MP Mohamed Mamdooh, Funadhoo constituency.



Funadhoo constituency member Mohamed Mamdoo speaking:

Thank you Pek Chuan and team. There is a green waste management kind program that UNDP started with WAMCO I think years back. And WAMCO is trying to start their service in numerous islands. Especially they have a plan in starting in the capital of each atoll by the end of this year. My question is, were the plans made to regarding these plans or the plan was implemented only in Male' region, or it's based on the all the islands, all the atolls?

United Nations Development Programme Deputy Resident Representative Pek Chuan Gan speaking:

Our current collaboration with WAMCO is mainly targeting on the plastics waste. Yes! And looking at the whole cycle of managing the plastic waste. So, we started off with some resources. Very, I will say moderate resources which is why the focus is on the Greater Male' Region. But currently, now the program is being expanding. We are in the discussion with WAMCO to look at, to identify if there's any order islands or even atolls where we can replicate some of these results that we manage to achieve during the phase one of the plastic waste management project. So, this is still ongoing discussion, once we have the lists of islands than you know beyond the greater Male' region we would share with the committee.

Chairman Speaking:

I would like to ask whether there's any program within UNDP that we can get support on human development. Like, since we are all very new to this area we want to know more about like, is there any possibility that UNDP can help to get us some of the conferences accessibility. Like COP summit something like that. Is there any possibility that UNDP can support our team members to participate in any of the conferences like that.

United Nations Development Programme Deputy Resident Representative Pek Chuan Gan Speaking:

We do have support, I mean drawing lessons from other countries and also some of the ongoing work, we do have support to you know to some like equip the parliamentarian members, parliamentarians in terms of the knowledge building in the area of environment climate change. But as for the actual participation in the conferences of



parties there is pretty much our resources is very very limited. Which is why and most of our projects have been committed for, you know, for other priority areas in accordance to our partners. And also, donors requirement, which is why, but of course we know we will always if there is there any specific request about you know capacity building and extra participation in the conference of parties where I mean something that we can you know open for discussion and see. But currently our resources available for this kind of you know delegation participation is very limited.

Chairman Speaking:

Ibrahim Naufal, the deputy chair of this committee from Mulak constituency.

Mulak constituency member Ibrahim Naufal Speaking:

Thank you. I would like to ask you, UNDP how UNDP can work furthermore in building our renewable energy sources, since this government is very much, this government sees, looks forward to building more renewable energy and our president has pledged to convert the current around I think, 30% by the end of the term he wants to produce electricity through renewable methods. So how can UNDP guide or help us to achieve our goals and targets in the renewable energy sector? Thank you.

United Nations Development Programme Deputy Resident Representative Pek Chuan Gan Speaking:

UNDP mainly work on two areas. One is basically creating the policy and also the enabling environment in terms of creating a policies, creating regulatory framework as well as you know exploring fiscal financing options instruments to enabling the Maldives to have a successful transition into a clean and renewable energy. Currently we do have an ongoing program where we work on you know, exploring and also doing feasibility on the financing instruments available to encourage more private sectors or even you know, tourism sector players to embrace and also adopt renewable energy transition. So that's one. Of course, my colleague here Zayan can you elaborate a bit more on that particular area. And the second area, we are currently in the process of identifying some islands and to also work with the nature parks authorities to make sure some of the upgrades and infrastructure of nature park facilities will also install solar powered. So, this is also the thing across all the nature parks management. And we also in the process of actually identify perhaps to see if there's any financing scheme that can



enable a quicker transition of adopting the solar power or renewable energy in the you know MSMEs in the area of blue economy.

United Nations Development Programme Senior Economist Ahmed Zayan Mohamed speaking:

Thank you, chair. Just to elaborate on the initiative that Pek Chuan mentioned relating to renewable energy, we have a project which is currently in its very early stages that is focusing on formulating guaranteed financing facility where the private sector and in this case specifically guesthouses, MSMEs would have access to relatively concessional financing to make investments into renewable energy. Currently we are doing the initial demand side analysis after which will be formulating the financing, the structure of the financing facility itself. Our main counterpart on this project is the capital market development authority and CMDA would ultimately be implementing the project through the banks. So, that is the ongoing initiative that we have that relates to renewable energy the time.

Chairman Speaking:

So, that means local banks, is it? Mamdhoo, Funadhoo constituency.

Funadhoo Constituency member Mohamed Mamdhoo Speaking:

Thank you. My second question is we feel lot of NGOs led by youth. Especially in our islands when they finish their secondary education, they start an ENGO with a small group. But we see they are not aware of how to reach the programs that facilitated or targeted to them actually. There is a break somewhere in between or they are not just aware of these programs. There are lot of NGOs in Maldives in this capital city and in our islands that are specialized for these environmental issues, and they have done, within their capacity they have done lot of works, like coral planting with a small scale. They lack funding, they lack awareness and also, they don't even know how to reach the right people, the right groups. Is there any program or any plan on reaching these NGOs and facilitating or helping them in carrying forward these projects, the small projects, small scale projects in those islands or in here in Maldives? There are some projects that have been successfully completed. But there are lot of NGOs they just lack awareness; they just lack the reach to the opportunities to reach the right groups. They don't know, actually they don't know the right path. Is there any program or any plan



on reaching out to them from UNDP side to those NGOs, to those islands? Is there any program like that or any plan within UNDP right now?

United Nations Development Programme Assistant Resident Representative (Climate Change) Khadeeja Hamid speaking:

Thank you for the question. I think the main vehicle through which we actually work at the very very grassroots level directly with communities with civil society organizations is our small grants program. So, this is a grant program that is open for NGOs to engage with, and one of the things that we really focus on through this program is actually building the capacity of NGOs. When they are you know, recipient of a grant, we engage with them to build their capacities in project management as well as their capacities in other technical areas. So, and this program has been going on for successive years, and through this we have engaged more than 130 various NGOs. This also is a vehicle through which various community initiatives are successfully incubated. So, there is a lot of success stories attached to this program and a lot of the cause for the grants actually happen openly. So, there is opportunity for different NGOs to apply for these grants and to benefit from the capacity building elements as well.

Chairperson speaking:

Mr. Naufal, Mulaku.

Mulaku Constituency member Ibrahim Naufal speaking:

Thank you. My next question is here in this Environment Committee we do the policy making level decisions here. Normally the bills that are related to the environment comes here, and we overlook it before we send it back to the floor. So, basically is there any way or any method currently utilized by UNDP to offer us legislative support when we are drafting or when we are making amendments to bills related to environment. Is there currently any support that you can offer this committee? And the next thing is we actually really want to adopt the way other countries, how internationally these kinds of policies that we are making are practiced. We want to refer to the world around us, how they are solving problems and issues and is there any way that UNDP can help guide this committee works to the right direction? Thank You.

United Nations Development Programme Assistant Resident Representative
(Governance) Yasmeen Rasheed speaking:



Thank you Deputy Chair, and I will ask my colleagues to also jump in as well. Overall, through the work that UNDP governance program is doing with parliament, one of the potential areas for collaboration that we do see is to build capacity on legislative analysis generally. By applying different lenses to how bills, amendments, resolutions these things are reviewed. This could be within the lens of inclusion or lenses of gender, communities and how consultations can be done. We have also discussed utilization of internationally used check list perhaps, and standard elements that can be looked into by the committee when reviewing any bill. So, this could be, for this I do see an area of collaboration in the future. At the moment unfortunately we do not have committed funding towards this. But this is an area that we will be lobbying for when we do develop, say proposals or asks for further partnerships. And something that could be considered also similar to the say, practice parliament series where financially as well there was a contribution from the Peoples Majlis to work on to continue the practice parliament series. We could also consider a similar modality to co-create a program along these lines with the Peoples Majlis where UNDP can also co-finance and along with our technical support as well. We do have access to international tools and resources through our regional as well as global networks that we have. So, definitely we could facilitate knowledge exchanges as a start we can look into available possible tools maybe through, through maybe webinars or an exchange. To start of with, which could be into a bigger program. On analysis of climate relate bills in particular that could be an area of focus that we can than apply later on.

Chairman Speaking:

Thank you very much for the time and giving us the information on UNDP and how we can collaborate with the UNDP. Now we will conclude, since there is no more questions from members, we will conclude this meeting. Thank you very much. We hope to work together shortly. Thank you.



