



ಸುಸ್ಥಾನು ಉಸ್ತುವಳಿ

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ಸುಸ್ಥಾನು ಉಸ್ತುವಳಿ 3 ನೇ ಸಂಚಿಕೆ

22 ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ 2022

ಸುಸ್ಥಾನು ಉಸ್ತುವಳಿ: ಸುಸ್ಥಾನು ಉಸ್ತುವಳಿ (4 ನೇ ಸಂಚಿಕೆ)

12:10 : ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ

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Chairman Speaking:

Hello, we are about to start the meeting. So how we intend to go about it will give you something like 20 minutes. I hope that would be enough to begin with you can introduce yourself. And then you can continue your presentation or whatever you have. And following that I will invite members if they have any questions or clarifications. So, let's start. I'll hand over the mike to you.

Aryj Hussain - Country representative for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Maldives Speaking:

Thank you. First of all, thank you for giving us this meeting on just a short notice. First of all, I would like to introduce the participants from our end. We have with us Mark Lyanas. Mark Lyanas is our international consultant. And he works on a global scale on areas relating to environmental issues and climate change. We also have with us Ahmed Naeem, who is our program coordinator and part of the WFD Maldives Team. And my name is, Aryj and I am the country representative for WFD Maldives. Just an introduction of WFD because I don't think we have had formal arrangement with the committee, with the climate change committee yet. WFD is a UK public body. We worked towards strengthening democracy and we have about programs in about thirty plus countries worldwide. And we started our work in the Maldives in 2019. And currently we are working under the CSS, Conflict, Stability and Security fund. And we've been working closely with the parliament especially the secretariat. And the thematic focus areas under CSS in this project is focused on climate change, gender, human rights, and also national security. We've had different activities under this mostly with other committees. We provided technical expertise to the National Securities committee in the inquiry report they had last year in regard to the assassination attempt of speaker. We've also started an ECO's with the help of a Canadian university, McGill university on post legislative scrutiny and the parliament process. Which a lot of parliamentary officials are actually participating in right now. We also hosted one study visit previously and will be hosting another one next month for committee chairs to visit the UK and go to the house of commons and meet with colleagues in their parliament as well and you know have a knowledge sharing experience with them as well. So, that's a little bit of short introduction of the work



what we are doing. For this meeting we are really looking at what the Environmental and Climate change committee is doing for this year, how your work is going, what is been planned in work or in the works in regard to the committee works and what are your priority areas for this year. And what kind of assistance that we can provide in regards to the work that you are being doing. I will also hand over the mike to Ahmed just to give you an idea of the kind of work you we've doing with the committees, with the parliament in the past few months. Thank you.

Program Coordinator Ahmed Naeem Speaking:

Thanks, Aryj. I'll just take roughly may be few minutes just to go through some of the works we had done with some of the committees of the Majlis. Since 2019 we have worked with Human Rights and Gender committee and later with Security Committee on National security as well. And we have also engaged with Climate Change committee as well in a visit to UK in 2019 October if I am not wrong and we have assisted committees in various ways sometime with the inquiries. Sometimes with assessments that are related to inquiries. And sometimes with some of the briefings or session for parliamentary officials that would help or assist members to contact inquiries efficiently. And some of the other work we did includes the preparation and writing of committee guideline which we have shared with the Majlis. And the committee guideline is a guideline for all the committees and officials which they can apply during their work. And it is it's available in both Dhivehi and English. And our current program it includes we rework on around thematic areas and climate change is one of the main thematic areas of the current program. And we as Aryj mentioned apart from parliament and committees we also engaged with civil society organizations and media. So that they will be aware of what parliament and the committees are doing on board in order to align the priority areas of both their parties. I think this about, this briefly about what we have done in the past and with the committees and overall parliaments. Thank you.

Aryj Hussain - Country representative for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Maldives Speaking:

I hope that was sufficient introduction from our end. I just wanted to start of the general question regarding the committee's work. And specially just highlighting in regard to COP 26 and the commitments of the Maldives in regard to the COP 26. And what has been the climate change committee's role in sort of holding the government



accountable in regard to those commitments or just in general what are the works currently under the committee right now.

Chairman Speaking:

Okay. Thank you for the introduction and thank you for organizing this event. I think what you have just said is very useful. If you don't have a foreigner attending this meeting, I hope you don't mind some of our members if they so, wish they could speak in Dhivehi. I think that would be okay.

Aryj Hussain - Country representative for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Maldives Speaking:

We do have Mark with us. But I can translate some of it is not (08:03) translate details in the chat for Mark while they are stating their statements. Is that alright?

Chairman Speaking:

Yeah, yeah, I think that's perfectly alright. But just to start I would make few remarks in English. So, Mark is also in line with us. I don't think we should be going too much detailing to how committees function since you've said you are keeping a very close watch on some of the committees here. And you know generally work is assigned to committees, to various committees by the Speaker. We have before us a huge document which is quite recent introduction to Majlis. This is on endangered species. I think as a fulfillment of the CITES convention so the bill is right before us, and we will be soon starting to debate on this bill in the committee. We have recently completed the climate emergency act, water sewerage act and energy act. These are like very, very important legislations the committee worked on, and we were able to complete the work last year. And now as part of the committee work, we will be reviewing some of the legislations and we will be inviting the relevant government agencies to find out what sort of, I think these are quite recent ones. And we should I think leave sometime for them to get the experience and I tend to think that it would at least take a year or so for us to get a proper review done. Also, in the parliament right now is amendments to the water and sewerage act. It doesn't come to committee yet. It's in the floor right now. And I'm hoping that it will come to the committee because that was a piece of work that we completed in this committee. I will also invite other members. We have a good representation today here. I will ask others if they have anything to add this movement. I will pass the floor if anyone wants to say anything. Ok! If you have any specific



questions, we don't have an agenda such. Our work is mostly reactive. But sometimes members can of cause bring issues to the committee. But most of the members here also represented in many other committees. They are overwhelmed. Actually, I mean at least in my case I work in three other committees. So, there is always enough work to do for each of these members. So very hard to you know, find time to bring our own issues to committees and debate on it and we have bills and motions and other work that comes to regular floor and that is passed to committees. So, we have enough work actually but not necessarily we work on a particular agenda also.

Aryj Hussain - Country representative for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Maldives Speaking:

Just a flow up on the first that you did mention that you are reviewing some legislations within the year or so. Can you specify which legislations these are, is it the climate emergency act and the energy act that recent once that have come in to force.

Chairman speaking:

Can you repeat what you just said?

Aryj Hussain - Country representative for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Maldives Speaking:

Sorry, mentioning that you were planning on reviewing some legislations within the next year would it be specifically the climate emergency act, energy act? Do you have a specific list of acts that you are planning on reviewing?

Chairman speaking:

Well, legislative review is a separate area of work actually. It's not a review as such, but we are going to have series of meetings with relevant stake holders and find out their experiences. I think it's premature to say you know we will have to review this legislation at this movement in time. But I'm sure they probably would have gained some experience in trying to implement and this is something we do here from colleagues working in the government. You know, there are some areas of difficulties, and we would like to know where we can help them. About energy act and climate emergency act, you would know that we have a quite ambitious climate target of 2030 right. We intent to go carbon neutral by 2030 or climate neutral by 2030. Which is quite an ambitious target. And for that to achieve lot of things need to be done and many



players will have to be onboard, and lot of work needs to be done. And that’s something specifically we will be looking at you know. Where the challenges are, where the opportunities lie, and I think soon we will be looking in to how the government is progressing in regards to that particular target. I have a colleague Ali Hussain would like to say something.

Kendhoo constancy member Ali Hussain speaking

Is that Ahmed, I just wanted to ask before. Ahmed right. Ok, I think like I wasn’t here when you like had the introduction and when you introduce like yourself, I was like what you guys are doing over there. Just looking to the agenda and then I ask the chair like what’s the meeting about. I think if we do anything by this committee or like from your organization it should be like one thing fundamentally that we are losing focus is that environment has never, it has still never become an election issue. Not in Maldives, not anywhere in the world. It just has become something like fashionable to talk about. Something nice to talk about. And when it comes to like developmental projects or whatever it is nobody bothers actually. Nobody bothers. Like not only Maldivians none of the counties, none of the organizations nobody cares. But we all talk, so, I think if we do anything we have to make sure that it becomes an election issue by 2023 and becomes a serious issue. And it becomes an issue where people would be swaying their votes either this side or that side base on environment. I think that should be the focus at this moment like from NGO’s like where you’re working and even this committee has to work to that direction. I think we have to make it and issue like, otherwise the politicians whoever contesting they are not going to like bothered about it and the people obviously for us their priorities are different. So, if you do one thing, I think that is something that we have to be focused on ourself.

Aryj Hussain - Country representative for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Maldives Speaking:

Just following what you have mentioned, and I was just thinking there is lot of incidents relating to development projects that are coming out regarding environmental issues in regard to those developmental projects. And some of these are taking into the parliament and taking into your committees as well. Do you face any difficulties in



regard to getting like expertise or getting the kind of just research and information that you require to carry on inquiries relating to these kinds of projects? So, just I understand that a lot of work that you have to do is related because these kinds of things popup and then do you feel like there are any obstacles to the work that you do in the committee level, any kind of technical expertise or any kind of procedural issues that you are facing currently.

Chairman speaking:

It again depends on the nature of issues that we get. For an example the bill right now before us which is on endangered species as we study and as we go along, we might need some technical assistance. Not all of us need to be trained in specialist areas related to environment. So, there are cases where we might need you know assistance and it would be good to have such a resource available in case, we need it you know. By again very much depend on the issue in discussion and the type of bills that we or motions that you know members submit. So, far we have been able to manage you know proper well I would say. But you never know, it is a very complicated and needing some time specific expertise and experiences. You never know we might need it.

Aryj Hussain - Country representative for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Maldives Speaking:

...this is such a; I mean your work is very diverse and obviously that would require a lot of like different diverse of information. Mark, do you have any questions or comments that you would like to add in?

Mark Iyanas - Consultant for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Maldives Speaking:

No, I need that the other committee with CBI for already with the Methew another committee member Patrick from the GCI. There is a lot of different streams of work with related to climate energy and climate adaptation. And I think it would just be nice to be able to bring in together so that we are not doing multiple different things under



the lab. And you know well take the committees direction on that and some as well as that from Speaker Nasheed. But if you, the committee chair, and members think of us as a source of technical support we are in whatever very useful our expertise extends from you know climate to others and environment as well whether it is waste or washed sewage or energy or entitled species or if we can broaden our support out from climate if that’s useful.

Chairman speaking:

That’s really very good and appreciate that help Mark. I remember you know when we initially started working on climate change bill, we were little bit stuck and we wanted some help and I recall requesting for some assistance from your organization back then, but it wasn’t readily available that time. But I am sure it won’t be the case in future. Technical assistance are always welcome you know and we need it. For instance, when we think of studying the impact of the legislation on climate change there might be a systematic approach that you may be aware of, and we would be happy to know it. In addition to that members, I am sure in the study mode and they always would want to get experiences and knowledge on how committees function and how you know, we work on bills and how we do proper reviews and things like that. So, we would always welcome technical assistance.

Aryj Hussain - Country representative for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Maldives Speaking:

That’s great gentleman. Ahmed, Mark, do you have any more additional questions?

Mark Iyanas - Consultant for Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Maldives Speaking:

regarding how the climate emergency act is operationalized. And when I was in the Majlis we discussed a bit about ministry leading to present COP, the first COP budget I have been in touch with the state minister about doing that. Doing that I don’t think its needs to be a huge, complicated piece of work its essentially a policy decision about the trajectory towards carbon neutral in 2030 and how the different factors operationalize



