

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



Message by Hon. Dr. Mariyam Shakeela, the Minister of Environment and Energy on the occasion of International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer

16 September 2013

Today as we celebrate the International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer, it is important to take this opportunity to note that a healthy ozone layer is indeed inherently linked with the environment and development of the Maldives. The slogan of this year, “A healthy atmosphere, the future we want”, aptly underscores the role of an integrated, holistic and collaborated approached, particularly through the participation of individual actors. Today then presents an opportunity for us to reflect upon and make the necessary behavioural changes required of us to achieve this goal. This may not be easy, but it is necessary to secure our collective future.

A healthy ozone layer is also one of the pre-requisites for the realisation of sustainable development. As such, it is necessary that we work to integrate the case of a healthy ozone layer and link it with climate change as we approach the Sustainable Development Goals and the post 2015 development agenda process.

To date, Maldives has made significant and notable progress through our work with the Montreal Protocol. This Protocol, which Maldives became a party in 1989, has consistently been recognised as the most successful multilateral environmental agreement.

Although small, Maldives has gone over and beyond its capacity to protect the ozone layer and has achieved significant success to this regard. We have phased out Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the year 2008, two years ahead of the target date as stipulated under the Montreal Protocol schedule. Currently, we are in the process of phasing out Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in the year 2020, ten years ahead of the schedule.

Indeed, the secret of our success thus far is the commitment of the government and the people and the collaborative nature of this relationship. It is then imperative that future government policies be implemented in the same spirit of partnership and collaboration. On this day, I

congratulate all Maldivians on what we have achieved as a country thus far, and call for renewed commitment to what remains to be done. It is my utmost hope that we continue to work together to protect our ozone layer and environment. I pray for the guidance of the Almighty Allah to this regard.

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