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### **Maldives Calls for Action on Climate Change**

3 December 2008, Doha; H.E. Mr. Ahmed Naseem, the State Minister of Foreign Affairs has called for a more action-oriented policy on climate change, in a statement delivered on the first of this month at the climate change side-event of the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Doha, Qatar.

In his address, State Minister Naseem urged for a sharpened focus on the link between global climate change and human rights in the debates, and drew attention to the international initiative steered forward by the Maldives under the 'Human Dimension of Global Climate Change'.

'Climate change, if left unchecked, has the potential to cause a major human development reversal in our lifetime' noted the State Minister. He also raised the issue of global climate justice, stating that 'Small Island States collectively have a tiny carbon footprint and yet stand to suffer the worst consequences of climate change'. In this regard, he drew a future in which increasing numbers of the world's population are reduced to the status of environmental refugees.

'For the past twenty years the vulnerable communities of our world have waited patiently for the powerful nations of the international community to respond responsibly. We have watched and listened as our cries have fallen on deaf ears – deaf ears I say since the problem of climate change has become worse in the past two decades. Today, we call upon the international community to respond with urgent action'.

As such, concluding his address, he forwarded global solutions to combat this global problem. State Minister Naseem highlighted the importance of finance as 'a critical element of any strategy to address climate change effectively,' and appealed to the international community to lend assistance to Least Developing Countries in strengthening their adaptive capacities against the compound threats of climate change.

H.E. Mr. Naseem was a panellist in the side-event of the UN International Conference on Financing for Development. Accompanying the State Minister were Dr. Hussain Niyaz, Executive Director and Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain, Assistant Director at the Ministry.

ENDS.