



# Male' Declaration on the Human Dimension of Global Climate Change

We the representatives of the Small Island Developing States having met in Male' from 13 to 14 November 2007,

*Aware* that the environment provides the infrastructure for human civilization and that life depends on the uninterrupted functioning of natural systems;

*Accepting* the conclusions of the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) including, *inter alia*, that climate change is unequivocal and accelerating, , and that mitigation of emissions and adaptation to climate change impacts is physically and economically feasible if urgent action is taken;

*Persuaded* that the impacts of climate change pose the most immediate, fundamental and far-reaching threat to the environment, individuals and communities around the planet, and that these impacts have been observed to be intensifying in frequency and magnitude;

*Emphasizing* that small island, low-lying coastal, and atoll states are particularly vulnerable to even small changes to the global climate and are already adversely affected by alterations in ecosystems, changes in precipitation, rising sea-levels and increased incidence of natural disasters;

*Convinced* that immediate and effective action to mitigate and adapt to climate change presents the greatest opportunity to preserve the prospects for future prosperity, and that further delay risks irreparable harm and jeopardizes sustainable development;

*Reaffirming* the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

*Recalling* the relevant provisions of declarations, resolutions and programmes of action adopted by major United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions and their follow-up meetings, in particular the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment of 1972 (Stockholm Declaration), the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, and the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

*Noting* that the fundamental right to an environment capable of supporting human society and the full enjoyment of human rights is recognized, in varying formulations, in the constitutions of over one hundred states and directly or indirectly in several international instruments;



## Male' Declaration on the Human Dimension of Global Climate Change

*Recognizing* the leadership of the Alliance of Small Island States in promoting and organizing international responses to climate change for the benefit of their citizens and humanity through *inter alia* the Male' Declaration on Sea Level Rises, the Barbados Programme of Action, and the Mauritius Strategy;

*Acknowledging* the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol as important initial multilateral efforts to address climate change through global legal instruments, and the primacy of the United Nations process as the means to address climate change;

*Anticipating* the publication of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Report and the meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government in Uganda, both of which will emphasise the human aspects of sustainable development;

*Concerned* that climate change has clear and immediate implications for the full enjoyment of human rights including *inter alia* the right to life, the right to take part in cultural life, the right to use and enjoy property, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to food, and the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

Do solemnly request:

1. The international community to commit in Bali to a formal process that will ensure a post-2012 consensus to protect people, planet and prosperity by taking urgent action to stabilize the global climate and ensure that temperature rises fall well below 2°C above pre-industrial averages, and that greenhouse gas concentrations are less than 450ppm, consistent with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities.
2. The members of AOSIS in New York to consider including the human dimension of global climate change as one of the agenda items for the meeting of AOSIS Ministers in Bali, and to explore possible alternatives for advancing this initiative in Bali in order to stress the moral and ethical imperatives for action;
3. The Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the help of the Secretariat, under article 7.2(l), to seek the cooperation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Human Rights Council in assessing the human rights implications of climate change.



## Male' Declaration on the Human Dimension of Global Climate Change

4. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct a detailed study into the effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights, which includes relevant conclusions and recommendations thereon, to be submitted prior to the tenth session of the Human Rights Council.
5. The United Nations Human Rights Council to convene, in March 2009, a debate on human rights and climate change.

*Committed* to an inclusive process that puts people, their prosperity, homes, survival and rights at the centre of the climate change debate, other AOSIS members not present in Male' are invited to endorse this Declaration;

Male', Republic of Maldives, 14 November 2007