



# Roadmap for the Reform Agenda

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Ushering In a Modern Democracy

# Roadmap for the Reform Agenda Ushering In a Modern Democracy

## 1. Objective:

To increase transparency and efficiency in the management of the democratic reform agenda, by setting out a timetable for the implementation of the agenda

## 2. Key components of the Reform Roadmap:

- 2.1 — Strengthening the system of governance in the Maldives
- 2.2 — Promoting and strengthening the protection of human rights
- 2.3 — Enhancing the independence of the judiciary
- 2.4 — Developing the multiparty political system
- 2.5 — Strengthening the civil service
- 2.6 — Modernizing the electoral system
- 2.7 — Enhancing the role of the media
- 2.8 — Strengthening key institutions

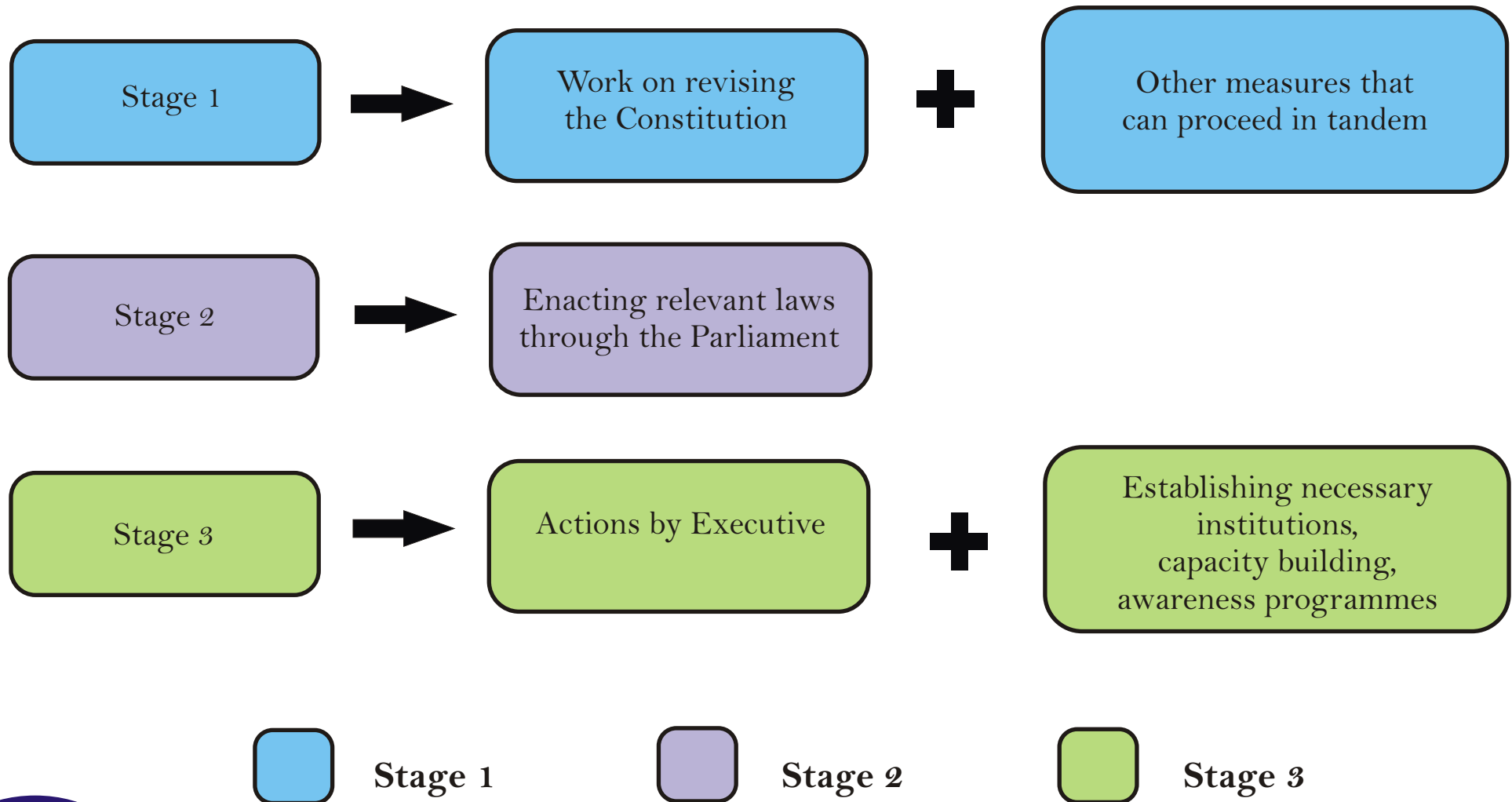
## 3. Tracks of Action:

- 3.1 — Revising the Constitution (Constitutional Assembly)
- 3.2 — Enactment of relevant laws (Parliament)
- 3.3 — Implementation measures (Executive)



The President launching the Roadmap for the Reform Agenda (27 March 2006)

# Three Tracks of Action



## 2.1 \_ Strengthening the system of governance in the Maldives

### Action 1 \_ Revising the Constitution

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
The Constitution needs to be revised to usher in a modern democracy	1. Gearing the work of the Special Majlis to enable it to accelerate its pace of work	31 May 2006	People's Special Majlis
	2. Deciding on the fundamental features of a new system of governance		
	3. Compilation of a draft Constitution		
	4. Tabling the draft Constitution before the People's Special Majlis		
	5. Passage of the Draft Constitution by the People's Special Majlis	31 May 2007	
	6. Ratification of the Constitution	30 June 2007	

### Action 2 \_ Raising public awareness and educating the electorate on the new Constitution

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to orient the people to the features and practices under the new Constitution	1. Conducting awareness programmes through the mass media	From 31 August 2006 until the commencement of campaigning for a new election	Mass media Commissioner of Elections
	2. Conducting civic education programmes		

## 2.2 \_ Promoting and strengthening the protection of human rights

### Action 1 \_ Strengthening the Maldives Human Rights Commission Act

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to ensure that the Maldives Human Rights Commission is fully compliant with the Paris Principles	1. Drafting an Amendment to the Act on the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives which was in full compliance with the Paris Principles	Already tabled before the People's Majlis	Attorney General's Office Maldives' Law Commission People's Majlis

### Action 2 \_ Becoming party to international human rights conventions

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need for human rights protection standards in the Maldives to conform to international standards	1. Becoming party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 2. Becoming party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	10 December 2006	Attorney General's Office Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Action 3 \_ Strengthening the Right to Freedom of Assembly in the Maldives

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to strengthen the right to freedom of assembly in streets and public places	1. Drafting a Bill on Strengthening the Right to Freedom of Assembly in the Maldives, and tabling the Bill before the People's Majlis	31 August 2006	Attorney General's Office Maldives' Law Commission
	2. Pending the enactment of legislation, strengthening the right to assembly through the proclamation of a regulatory framework by the executive	15 May 2006	People's Majlis Attorney General's Office Maldives' Law Commission



The Parliament - A Pillar of Democracy in the Maldives

## Action 4 \_ Establishing a modern criminal justice system

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to modernise the Penal Code, and to enact necessary legislation to overhaul and strengthen the entire criminal justice system	1. Tabling the new Penal Code Bill before the People's Majlis	31 August 2006	Mass media Commissioner of Elections
	2. Tabling the new Sentencing Bill before the People's Majlis	31 August 2006	
	3. Tabling the new Criminal Procedures Code before the People's Majlis	31 August 2006	
	4. Tabling the Bill on Evidence before the People's Majlis	31 August 2006	
	5. Tabling the National Security Service Bill before the People's Majlis	31 August 2006	
	6. Tabling the Police Bill before the People's Majlis	31 August 2006	
	7. Tabling the Bill on Detention Procedures before the People's Majlis	31 August 2006	
	8. Tabling the Parole Bill before the People's Majlis	31 August 2006	

## 2.3 \_ Strengthening the judiciary

### Action 1 \_ Strengthening the independence of the judiciary

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to strengthen the independence of the judiciary and reorganise the administration of justice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establishing a Supreme Court</li> <li>2. Tabling a Bill on Judicature before the People's Majlis</li> <li>3. Tabling a Bill on the Judicial Services Commission before the People's Majlis</li> </ol>	1 August 2007	Ministry of Justice Attorney General's Office Maldives' Law Commission People's Majlis



The Maldives is a youthful nation with proud history and cultural identity



The country's first multiparty elections to be held in July - October 2008



## 2.4 \_ Strengthening the multiparty political system

### Action 1 \_ Drafting the Bill on Political Parties

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need for a statutory framework for political parties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tabling a Bill on Political Parties before the People's Majlis</li> <li>2. Formulation of the Regulation on Political Parties</li> <li>3. Conducting awareness programmes for politicians and functionaries of political parties</li> <li>4. Raising public awareness on the role of political parties</li> </ol>	<p>Currently tabled before the People's Majlis</p> <p>From 1 June 2006 until the commencement of campaigning for a new election</p> <p>From 1 June 2006 until the commencement of campaigning for a new election</p>	<p>Attorney General's Office</p> <p>Maldives' Law Commission</p> <p>People's Majlis</p> <p>Mass media</p> <p>Commissioner of Elections</p>

## 2.5 \_ Strengthening the civil service

### Action 1 \_ Ensuring the independence of the civil service

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to clearly demark and identify political posts from other Government posts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revising the Civil Service Bill currently tabled before the People's Majlis</li> <li>2. Establishing a statutory Civil Service Commission</li> </ol>	<p>31 December 2006</p> <p>31 July 2007</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice</p> <p>Attorney General's Office</p> <p>Maldives' Law Commission</p> <p>People's Majlis</p> <p>Public Service Division</p> <p>Civil Service Commission</p>

### Action 2 \_ Raising awareness on the civil service

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raising awareness on the civil service among:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) civil servants</li> <li>(b) members of the general public</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	From the date of passing of the Civil Service Act onwards	<p>Civil Service Commission</p> <p>Public Service Division</p> <p>Ministry of Information and Arts</p>

## 2.6 \_ Strengthening the electoral system

### Action 1 \_ Drafting the new Elections Bill, in compliance with the new Constitution

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to modernise the existing electoral system in the country	1. Drafting the Elections Bill and tabling the Bill before the People's Majlis	31 July 2007	Attorney General's Office Maldives' Law Commission People's Majlis
	2. Formulating the Regulations on Public Elections	30 September 2007	
	3. Establishment of the Electoral Commission	31 December 2007	
	4. Revising the electoral boundaries and constituencies	30 April 2008	Electoral Commission

### Action 2 \_ Voter education and new election

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Ensuring that the people are fully familiarised with the new electoral system	1. Raising public awareness through the mass media	From 1 January 2008	Ministry of Information and Arts
	2. Holding the new election	July - October 2008	Mass media Electoral Commission

## 2.7 \_ Enhancing the role of the media

### Action 1 \_ Introduction of the new legislation on the media

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need for specific laws to protect media freedom	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tabling the Bill on Media Freedom before the People's Majlis</li> <li>2. Tabling the Bill on Freedom of Information before the People's Majlis</li> <li>3. Tabling the Bill on Registration of Newspapers and Magazines before the People's Majlis</li> <li>4. Tabling the Maldives' Media Council Bill before the People's Majlis</li> <li>5. Introduction of the Code of Conduct of Journalists</li> </ol>	<p>Already tabled before the People's Majlis</p> <p>Already tabled before the People's Majlis</p> <p>Already tabled before the People's Majlis</p> <p>Already tabled before the People's Majlis</p> <p>Following the passing of the Bill</p>	<p>Ministry of Information and Arts</p> <p>Attorney General's Office</p> <p>Maldives' Law Commission</p> <p>People's Majlis</p>

### Action 2 \_ Drafting the Defamation Bill

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to make defamation a civil offence rather than a criminal offence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tabling a Bill on Defamation before the People's Majlis, to make defamation a civil offence</li> </ol>	31 August 2006	<p>Maldives' Law Commission</p> <p>Attorney General's Office</p> <p>People's Majlis</p>

### Action 3 \_ Strengthening the field of broadcasting in the Maldives

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to facilitate the opportunity for private parties to broadcast and re-broadcast	1. Tabling a Bill on Broadcasting before the People's Majlis	31 October 2006	Ministry of Information and Arts
	2. Tabling a Bill on Cable Television Service Provision before the People's Majlis	31 October 2006	Maldives' Law Commission Attorney General's Office People's Majlis



The President's agenda for democracy, human rights and reform has already brought about a major transformation in the Maldives

## 2.8 \_ Increasing independence and strengthening of certain institutions

### Action 1 \_ Strengthening the Anti-Corruption Board

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to revise the existing “Prohibition of Corruption Act”	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tabling a Bill Amending the “Prohibition of Corruption Act” before the People’s Majlis, to strengthen the work on stamping out corruption</li> <li>2. Becoming party to the UN Convention Against Corruption</li> </ol>	1 December 2006	Attorney General’s Office Maldives’ Law Commission People’s Majlis

### Action 2 \_ Strengthening the role of the Auditor-General

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to establish independence of the Auditor-General	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tabling the Audit Bill before the People’s Majlis</li> </ol>	Already tabled before the People’s Majlis	Attorney General’s Office Maldives’ Law Commission People’s Majlis

### Action 3 \_ Establishing a Police Integrity Commission

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need to promote public trust in the Police Service, and facilitating an avenue for raising complaints on Police practice	1. Establishing a “Police Integrity Commission”, and designating the duties of the Commission	31 August 2006	Attorney General’s Office Ministry of Home Affairs Maldives Police Service

### Action 4 \_ Establishing an Ombudsman Office

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Need for an independent body to hear and resolve general complaints regarding public service provision	1. Drawing up the legislative framework on establishing an Ombudsman Office	31 May 2007	Attorney General’s Office Maldives’ Law Commission People’s Majlis
	2. Establishment of an Ombudsman Office	1 January 2008	

### Action 5 \_ Promoting civil society

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Promoting civil society	1. Tabling the Amendments to the Associations Law before the People’s Majlis	1 March 2007	Attorney General’s Office Community Organisation Development Council Ministry of Home Affairs
	2. Revising the Regulation on Associations	1 June 2007	

## Action 6 \_ Strengthening Atoll and Island administration

Current Status	Goal	Proposed Completion Date	Concerned Authority
Strengthening and decentralising Atoll and Island administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tabling the Bill on Decentralised Administration of Atolls and Islands before the People's Majlis</li> <li>2. Electing Island Councils</li> <li>3. Electing Atoll Councils</li> </ol>	31 January 2007	Attorney General's Office Maldives' Law Commission Ministry of Atolls Development People's Majlis



**27 March 2006**

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