

MALDIVES PARTNERSHIP FORUM

**Bandos Island Resort, Maldives
26 June 2006**

Administrative Note

1. Rationale and Aim

The Maldives Partnership Forum (MPF) provides a platform for discussion between the Government of Maldives and its development partners on the development objectives of the Maldives. As the Maldives is progressing forward from a Least Developed Country to a Middle Income Country, the country is looking for partners to sustain this new position and to ensure that the national economy can contribute to such a new situation by private sector development, public private partnerships and enhanced economic growth. The MPF is also an invitation from the Government of Maldives to its partners to engage and discuss in an open manner ways and means to reach the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, and other important development benchmarks.

Dialogue, engagement, partnerships and joint responsibility are key words for the Government of Maldives when inviting its development partners to work hand in hand to fully meet the country's development goals on improving trade, industrial development, export of goods, economic growth in order to fully eradicate poverty. One key aspect of the changes happening in Maldives is the on-going political reform process and the Government of Maldives will welcome a dialogue on this also.

The MPF will be convened on a regular basis by the Government of Maldives, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme.

2. Overall Goals and Objectives

Creating a forum for discussions between the Government and its key development partners, (bilateral partners, UN, IFIs, NGOs and civil society organisations (CSOs) and the private sector) on prioritizing national development activities in terms of the immediate needs rebuilding the country after the tsunami, the medium term needs as being outlined in the 7th National Development Plan covering 2006-2010 and the longer term ambitions on creating a well functioning multi-party democracy. All of this will be seen in connection with the overall resource envelope available for Maldives in terms of domestic resources as well as external assistance in the form of grants and loans.

What the Government of Maldives wishes to accomplish via the MPF mechanism

- Establish long term partnerships with key international development agencies with a view to harmonize and align on-going and future development assistance with the national development objectives;
- Seek support and advice of key development partners on the development challenges identified and prioritized by the Government and report to the Government and make recommendations on matters concerning the financing and prioritization of national development activities;

- Promote public private partnerships and seek to further develop the private sector; promote a better investment climate; and establish improved export regulations to facilitate the government to withdraw from its current policies on subsidization, and promote private sector led growth.
- Link with international forums concerned with aid effectiveness, development financing, and global programmes.
- Jointly identify means of financing for major national development priorities identified in the 7th NDP and the Roadmap for Political Reform.

The MPF in June 2006 will be focusing on

1. Presentation and discussion on the over all macro-economic situation
2. Medium term priorities and development activities as outlined in the 7th NDP; and
3. Discussion of the tsunami recovery and reconstruction programme, prioritization of sectors and addressing needs in terms of funding shortfalls in line with the “Build Back Better” policy adopted;
4. Opportunities for economic growth and investment in the Maldives
5. The Governments road map for democratic governance.

To better facilitate communication with participants, the media and the population at large, distribution of advance documentation will be made available on-line in a timely fashion at www.maldivespartnershipforum.gov.mv. At this website documentation prepared for previous meetings, relevant background documentation and minutes/aid communiqués will also be made available.

3. Dates

The meeting will be held on Sunday, 26 June 2006. There would be two field trips to various islands of the Maldives on 25 June 2006.

4. Venue

The meeting will take place at Bandos Island Resort, Maldives.

Tel: +960 6640088 ; Fax: +960 6643877 ; Web site: <http://www.bandosmaldives.com>

5. Field visits

Two field visits have been planned on 25 June for the participants of the MPF. Two options are available: In option one; participants would be taken to Thilafushi and Hulhumalé islands to observe possibilities for long term private sector development. In option two; participants would travel to Islands of Guraidhoo, Thulusdhoo and Huraa. The purpose of this visit is to witness tsunami recovery: IDP issues; housing and shelter reconstruction; infrastructure (Harbour and Jetties); Water and Sanitation; Waste disposal; Environmental challenges on accessibility related to health, education, & employment; economic development.

Participants are requested to communicate which option they prefer for the field visit, at least by 20 June to enable the organisers to arrange the necessary logistics.

6. Dress code

The dress code for the MPF on 26 June is shirt and tie for gents and appropriate formal dress for ladies. The dress code for the field visit is casual.

7. Travel Arrangements and Hotel Accommodation

Transportation

Transportation would be provided for the field trips and for the trip from Malé to Bandos and return, for the reception on 25 June, and for the Forum on 26 June.

8. Accommodation

Participants would have to bear costs of accommodation in the Maldives. For the participants travelling from overseas to attend the meeting, it is very strongly recommended that they make reservations at the Bandos Island Resort, which is the venue of the Forum, to simply avoid logistical complications. If any delegate decides to stay in any other resort, it is requested that arrangements are made for travel to and from Bandos to that resort is made in advance to avoid any complications.

The organisers of the Forum have made arrangements with Bandos Island Resort to offer special discounts for delegates who wish stay in Bandos.

For any clarifications on accommodation arrangements please contact Ms Aminath Nashia (Telephone: 3331755, 7795502; email: nashia@der.gov.mv)

9. Documentation

Documentation for the Forum would be sent to the participants in advance.

10. Additional information

All the information relevant to the Forum would be available at <http://www.maldivespartnershipforum.gov.mv>

For enquiries on any thing related to the Forum please contact either of the following two persons:

Mr. Jonas Kjaer
UNDP Aid Coordination Advisor
Ministry of Finance and Treasury /
Department of External Resources
Cell: +960 7793420
Email: jonas.kjaer@undp.org

Mr. Ali Naseer Mohamed
Assistant Director General
Department of External Resources
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Male', Maldives
Tel: +960 3317582
Cell: +960 7785046
Email: alinaseer@der.gov.mv