

## Position Paper for the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

The agenda before the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) are: Strengthening Pathways for the Implementation of International Standards for Sustainable Urban Development and Financing Technology Transfer in Urban Development. The Republic of Maldives is fully committed in ensuring that the welfare and rights of every human is protected through the implementation of a sustainable urban development and strongly stresses the promotion of new and innovative technology transfer initiatives.

#### I. Strengthening Pathways for the Implementation of International Standards for Sustainable Urban Development

Urban areas are facing complex and fast-evolving problems as pressing nontraditional environmental issues are at its height. Cities only cover less than 2 percent of the earth's surface, but according to Greenhouse Gas Protocol, they generate more than 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. According to Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, every individual has the right for a standard of adequate living catering one's health and well-being. Governments are invited to further encourage sustainable cities and acknowledged the role of local authorities in their urban development policies through E/RES/2012/27, which is further supported by A/RES/70/210 that identifies cities as engines of economic growth and can promote sustainable societies, economically, socially and environmentally.

Future sea levels are projected to increase from 10 to 100 centimeters by the year 2100 according to the 2013 report by the International Panel on Climate Change. By then, Maldives could be totally submerged. In order to facilitate a sustainable and equitable land management, the Republic of Maldives has implemented a set of system for preparation of Land Use Plans for islands. The Hulhumale Development Corporation (HDC) aims to develop and administer land developments. The Republic of Maldives led the way in highlighting at the international stage, environmental concerns and has called for the development of the Climate Vulnerable Forum. The Republic of Maldives was the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) which works as an ad hoc negotiating voice and focuses on the vulnerability of small island states. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), in which the Republic of Maldives is a founding member, made regional cooperation for sustainable development an agenda in its Kathmandu Summit in 2014.

The Republic of Maldives is fully committed on addressing environmental issues specifically the need for the international standardization of sustainable urban development without compromising local welfare and demands, and acknowledging the different geographic features of States. Private institutions and concerned stakeholders have a vital role in the pioneering of this international standardization for sustainable urban development. In this regard, the Republic of Maldives proposes to require member states to: (1) initiate multifaceted and multisectoral dialogues regarding sustainability and resiliency in the local and international level; (2) enhance government-private collaborations regarding technology development, financing, and partnership in pursuing sustainability; (3) promote international standard compliance capacity in order to ensure the possibility and effectiveness of local implementation and/or enhancement of sustainable development; (4) incorporate sustainable development to national plans, agenda, and policies; and (5) develop collaboration with International Standards Organization and related institutions regarding the strengthening of international standards for sustainable development.

## II. Financing Technology Transfer in Urban Development

Technology, the driving force of development, is significant in a sustainable urban development, and climate change is one of the most imperative challenges being faced by humanity not only due to its multifaceted and persistent nature but also because of its long-term impact. The urgency in finding solutions to this global problem will require drastic and bold actions from the international community. Through E/RES/2014/28, the significant role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in facing global issues and recognizing sustainable development was highlighted and was recognized by E/RES/2015/27 as the instrumental part in the attainment of a number of Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, the A/RES/69/210 encouraged Member States to increase collaboration in promoting technology transfer, innovation and capacity-building programs.

The Republic of Maldives has a firm belief that technology transfer is not only about the transnational movement of hardware but also about information, techniques, and knowledge-sharing, and wise resource usage keeping in mind local conditions, features, and advantages. The Republic of Maldives has made innovative and cohesive technological projects and programs such as: (1) an integrated freshwater supply system, (2) the world's first completely solar-powered 5-star resort, and (3) in 2009, Maldives National Strategy for Sustainable Development which included Maldives' (a) National Energy Policy, (b) Science and Technology Master Plan, and (c) Technology Needs Assessment. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has made its Strategic and Operational Plan under the SAARC Energy Centre in 2013. Technology transfer and sharing is among the five thematic areas identified in the Plan. In April 19-21, 2016, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) together with Applied Energy Journal and Applied Energy Innovation Institute (AEii) will organize an Applied Energy Symposium and Forum in Maldives.

The Republic of Maldives stresses that shared and transferred technology can only be absorbed by the recipient State if there is a domestic capacity. In this regard, the Republic of Maldives proposes: (1) capacity-building programs for better technology transfer absorption targeted towards developing and poor States which will result to faster incorporation of such technology transfer to national systems which will require States to (a) incorporate the development, implementation, and particularly the financing of technology transfer, to national plans, agenda, and policies; (b) initiate local technology transfer programs through local authorities noting the variation of resources and features unique to States; and (c) increase coordination and cooperation between Government and private institutions particularly sectors of technology and the academe for an inclusive, comprehensive, and multisectoral approach; and (2) develop and enhance cooperation and partnership with International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and/or other related institutions regarding the financing of technology transfer and capacity-building for transferred technology absorption.