

Country: The Republic of Maldives

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Executive Summary

The Republic of Maldives reassured the world that we are committed to action on climate, despite the fact we contribute less than 0.01% of the world's carbon footprint and are hard-hit by climate change (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2018). President Muizzu's appeal for "urgent collective action" globally indicates climate change is not merely an issue of development but requires the attention of the world immediately (Presidency of Maldives, 2024)

As a nation, we are in a desperate position. The forecast is the sea would rise 1 meter by 2100 (Government of Maldives, 2024). 80% of our land is below 1 meter. This will inundate buildings, require families to relocate, and contaminate our clean water (Maldives Marine Research Center & Environmental Protection Agency, 2016).

Our reefs are dying. 60-90% of them have bleached white over the past several years (Maldives Marine Research Center & Environmental Protection Agency, 2016). Without our coral reefs, we are losing coast and fishery protection. Adaptation costs? \$8.8 billion annually (Only-One, 2023). We can't pay this alone.

There are three resolutions the Maldivian government has towards COP30 to address key climate concerns. Firstly, we aim to establish the SIDS Climate Emergency Finance Facility so we can access climate funds with ease and fill our \$12.4 billion adaptation finance deficit by 2030 (World Bank, 2025). Secondly, we are to accelerate the transition towards renewable energy where we will boost solar energy with 250 MW floatovoltaics by 2030 (Government of Maldives, 2024). Thirdly, we will design a comprehensive coastal protection framework incorporating traditional techniques such as the use of olhigandu and modern engineering techniques (Down To Earth, 2021).

They align with our Third Nationally Determined Contribution, our pledge to reduce 1.52 million tonnes CO₂eq by 2035 if we get assistance from other countries. Our planning will make Maldives a pioneer and secure the international assistance we require to survive.

Our previous work assisted us in completing the COP 30 agreement. We spearheaded AOSIS between 2015 and 2018 and advocated for the 1.5°C target goal (Government of Maldives, 2024). We agreed to the Paris Agreement in 2016 (Government of Maldives, 2016). We advocated for the Male' Declaration on Climate-Resilient Infrastructure (Government of Maldives, 2024). We will advocate for needed rules post the Baku Climate Unity Pact. We require climate finance to rise to \$300 billion annually until 2035 (UN Climate Change, 2024). This will assist the outer islands' community with desalination, early warnings, and restoring reefs.

Our Urgent Needs

Maldives' government is threatened with four significant threats that require assistance urgently from other nations. Sea levels are increasing at 97–117 mm yearly and are more than double the world average (Government of Maldives, 2024). This will inundate 80% of our below-sea-level ground. By the year 2100, satellite research foresees the sea level increasing by a meter and inundating 64% of health facilities and 90% of tourist infrastructure 100 meters inland from the coast (Government of Maldives, 2024).

Seawater contamination impacts 97% of the world's populated islands' underground freshwater supplies. This renders the people reliant on expensive desalination, ranging from \$0.50 to \$1.00 for every cubic meter (Maldives Marine Research Center & Environmental Protection Agency, 2016). This impacts significantly on households in outlying islands.

Coral bleaching also poses a threat to coastal safety and food security. The 2016 bleaching destroyed 60–90% of reefs (Maldives Marine Research Center & Environmental Protection Agency, 2016). By the year 2100, 70–90% of the coral will disappear despite the temperature increasing by just 1.5°C (Government of Maldives, 2023). This would result in the loss of \$400 million yearly in fish income and would place 214 meters of each island's coastline at further risk from erosion (Government of Maldives, 2024).

Coastal erosion impacts 90% of the islands. The schools, electricity stations, and hospitals are constructed through the acquisition of weakened reefs (Government of Maldives, 2024). The Indian-funded coastal protection initiative at A.A. Rasdhoo in 2023 indicates the nation requires \$2–4 billion for protection against coastal erosion (World Bank, 2025).

Our current climate expenditure is insufficient to cover significant risks. We spent \$96 million annually on adaptation in 2022, which is thirty times higher than in 2012, but still 15 times lower than the \$1.5 billion required annually up to 2030 (Government of Maldives, 2024). We require a total of \$12.4 billion for adaptation by 2030, including \$8.8 billion for coastal protection and \$3.6 billion for water security, according to the World Bank (World Bank, 2025). This shortfall persists despite the fact that climate expenditure accounts for 44% of domestic budgets, and with public debt standing at 123% of GDP, there is less fiscal space for expenditure (IMF, 2023).

The financial deficit creates significant issues. Tourism, accounting for 28% of the economy, can lose \$1.1 billion a year until 2050 (Government of Maldives 2024). The 50% of our proteins coming from the fishery can experience a 45% depletion in fish stocks due to destruction of the reefs (Government of Maldives 2023). Health expenditure in climate-related diseases can increase by \$23 million annually due to water contamination and heat stress (OnlyOne 2023).

Without urgent international support, our adaptation deficit could reduce GDP by 11 percentage points by 2050. This would render our net-zero 2030 target unachievable (World Bank, 2025).

SWOT Analysis

Strength

Maldives participates in international discussions regarding climate change through attendance at 27 COP meetings since 1995. This illustrates our nation engaging frequently in international climate negotiations (Government of Maldives, 2024). We are seasoned in diplomacy through key agreements such as signing the Kyoto Protocol in 2000 and being part of the first four Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to sign the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016 (AOSIS, 2016).

Since we are a nation at risk, we have the right to discuss climate justice a great deal. Having 80% of our terrain below 1 meter in elevation and contributing a paltry 0.004 percent to the world's carbon output (Government of Maldives, 2024), the Maldives owes it to itself and the world to guard the weaker nations' rights. That was evident when our President Solih emerged as the first Maldivian head in 12 years to address COP26 and raise the critical 1.5°C target (Presidency of Maldives, 2021).

We've discovered new means to face climate change. An example is the "Magey Solar" initiative where houses can generate electricity using solar panels and pay in installments over time (Government of Maldives, 2024). By 2027, we will establish 20 new nurseries for coral reefs in various atolls to assist the coral reefs in regaining what they lost. We target to safeguard 30% of our ocean spaces through 2030 (Government of Maldives, 2025).

We led AOSIS from 2015 to 2017. We established the 1.5°C temperature target in the Paris Agreement through the "1.5 to Stay Alive" campaign (Government of Maldives, 2024). We also initiated the Male' Declaration on Climate Resilient Infrastructure and 42 countries endorsed this declaration at COP29. The declaration produced construction standards for SIDS (Government of Maldives, 2024).

Weakness

We increased our annual expenditure related to climate issues to \$96 million in 2022, thirty times our expenditure a decade ago. This is still just a fraction of the \$12.4 billion we require by 2030 (Government of Maldives, 2025; INFF, 2023). We currently spend far less than the \$800 million we require yearly based upon our climate analysis (Government of Maldives, 2025).

Our high public debt of 123% of GDP restricts the amount of money available for climate investments. This renders it difficult to finance essential infrastructure to adapt to climate change (IMF, 2024). The debt also restricts our capacity to access additional finance for critical climate protection measures.

With 80% of land less than 1 meter above sea level, our nation faces unprecedented infrastructure risks from sea-level rise (World Bank, 2025). Critical facilities including 64% of health facilities are located within 100 meters of eroding coastlines, making them extremely vulnerable to coastal flooding and erosion (Government of Maldives, 2024).

Depending heavily upon other nations for energy and food weakens the economy against international prices changes (UNEP-CCC, 2024). Such a dependence endangers energy security and also enhances the threat to supply chains.

Opportunities

The Brazil meeting is a good opportunity to assist in a special climate finance initiative to Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The initiative would grant easy access and immediate approval to emergency coastal defense projects (Government of Maldives, 2025). We are able to use our diplomacy and look for new means to finance the projects.

It is a great opportunity to earn plenty of money by conserving mangroves and seagrass (Government of Maldives, 2025). We vow to conserve at least one wetland and one reef and at least one island from each atoll and obtain blue carbon credits thereby.

The Indian Ocean Resilience Partnership began at COP29 with assistance from the government of Mauritius and Seychelles and collects funds for climate change adaptation and early warning (Government of Maldives, 2024). We can access climate funds and exchange good thoughts through this partnership.

Increasing the floating solar to 250 MW by 2030 through public and private partnerships is an excellent means to achieve independence in terms of energy (Government of Maldives, 2025). Merging shoreline protection with solar will assist in controlling the changes and curtail the dangers.

Threats

Projections indicate a 1-meter increase in sea level by 2100. This would endanger significant buildings and entire towns of Maldives (World Bank, 2025). The current increase is 97–117 mm annually, and this is greater than the world average. This presents immediate threats to coastal communities (Government of Maldives, 2025).

If we exceed the 1.5°C goal, our coral reefs will be lost entirely (70–90% lost by 2100). This will strip us of our coastal protection and significantly impact our tourism and fisheries industries (Government of Maldives, 2025). We will lose \$400 million annually through decreased incomes from the fishery industry (Government of Maldives, 2024).

It is difficult to get sufficient funds for climate change since other regions requiring assistance also require funding (Government of Maldives, 2025). The international system of financing climate activities is insufficient to cover the demands of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Regional groups and international situations can impact climate action funds and climate cooperation agreements (Government of Maldives, 2024). Political issues in donor nations can impact climate finance commitments over the long term.

Proposed Resolutions for COP30

Resolution 1: Establishment of the SIDS Climate Emergency Finance Facility

We feel the need for the establishment of a specialized climate finance architecture tailored to the needs of Small Island Developing States that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. This will enable their access to the yearly commitments of \$300 billion agreed upon at COP29 (UNFCCC, 2024)¹. Expedited approval processes must be instituted for their critical coastal protection projects, as the current financial commitment of \$96 million annually far below the estimated \$12.4 billion to be granted by 2030 (Government of Maldives, 2025; World Bank, 2025).

Prioritization is needed to respond to the threats presented by saltwater intrusion in freshwater habitats, coastline erosion, and infrastructure relocation. Such emphasis is more critical when taking account of the fact that 64% of medical facilities are located within 100 meters of eroded coastlines (Government of Maldives, 2024). There exists a need for new funding avenues for such projects, such as climate-resilient funding, blue bonds aimed at the restoration of coral reefs, and insurance-backed funding based on contributions from vulnerable countries (Government of Maldives, 2025).

Resolution 2: Accelerated Renewable Energy Transition for Island Nations

We aim to derive 33% of our energy from renewables by 2028 (Government of Maldives, 2024). We intend to boost our solar power to a minimum of 250 megawatts by 2030. The Government of Maldives issued its first Special Economic Zone permit for a 100 MW solar photovoltaic venture worth over \$100 million (Corporate Maldives, 2025).

We will strengthen the "Magey Solar" community program, which aims to install 748 solar PV systems across various provinces with flexible payment options spanning one to five years (MBR, 2025). This initiative will establish decentralized mini-grids on at least 50% of inhabited islands by 2028, creating regulatory frameworks that allow communities to share and trade excess renewable energy. We propose establishing a regional center of excellence on floating solar technology specifically designed for tropical marine environments to facilitate knowledge sharing among SIDS.

Resolution 3: Integrated Coastal Protection and Marine Conservation Framework

We endorse the combined method of coastal protection based both on ancient wisdom and modern technology. This entails reactivating ancient "soft" practices such as keeping out

from the coast and taking care of coastal vegetation ("olhigandu"). This entails also the application of new technology where this is appropriate (Government of Maldives, 2025).

We anticipate 70-90% coral damages in reefs if we limit warming to 1.5°C. We intend establishing at least 20 new coral nursery sites across different atolls by 2027 (Government of Maldives, 2025). The nurseries will cultivate corals resilient to heat through new techniques. This will complement successful projects such as those from Nova Maldives and the Soneva Foundation with 78,057 corals already being planted and 27,000 corals in seawater nurseries (Soneva, 2025).

We will safeguard 30 percent of our oceans by 2030 in the form of marine protected areas, at least partly managed locally (Government of Maldives, 2025). This will occur through the Building Climate Resilient Safer Islands programme, sponsored by the Green Climate Fund. This will establish our coast management plans. These will demonstrate to the world the way the Maldives will act while we receive the international assistance we require to survive and thrive in a transforming climate.

In conclusion, In COP30, the Maldives calls upon the world to assist climate-vulnerable countries with strong financial assistance, sharing of technology, and adaptation assistance. We can bring the world together to take action on climate in a strong and unified way as a frontline state but need the big polluters to act fast and realize the seriousness of the climate situation (Government of Maldives, 2025). The future of the Maldives and other Small Island Developing States should not be depended upon handouts but upon climate fairness, those who have emitted the least amount should get the greatest assistance to mitigate its impacts. By keeping the COP30 negotiations centered on fairness and utilizing our negotiating acumen, we hope to make this conference a turning point for the world and make available not just survival but fairness to future generations.

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