

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

NO: (PR)88-B/88/2024/7

PRESS RELEASE

Minister Faisal Concludes Engagement at UN Sustainability Week, Championing Sustainable Tourism

Male' Maldives, April 18, 2024 – Minister Faisal participated in the UN GA High-level Thematic Event on Tourism, representing The Maldives' commitment to sustainability and its active role on the global stage. His engagement during the UN Sustainability Week underscores The Maldives' dedication to shaping the future of tourism through international collaborations and sustainable practices.

The Minister delivered an address at the High-level Thematic Debate on Debt Sustainability and Socio-Economic Equality for All, shedding light on the unique challenges confronting Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like the Maldives. He stressed their susceptibility to climate change and external economic shocks and called for debt relief, accessible financing, and reforms to the international financial system to bolster sustainable development in SIDS.

Building upon this momentum, Minister Faisal presented the Maldives' vision for a resilient and sustainable tourism sector at the High-Level Thematic Event on Tourism. He outlined a comprehensive strategy focused on resilience-building, innovation, and intensified collaboration. This framework prioritizes addressing climate change and public health crises while ensuring the enduring viability of island tourism.

Minister Faisal also participated in a Ministerial Roundtable on Sustainable Tourism and the launch of the Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism. He underscored the Maldives' leadership in this crucial domain, emphasizing ongoing endeavors to embed environmental and social responsibility throughout all facets of the industry.

Throughout the week, Minister Faisal engaged in fruitful discussions with international counterparts. He held meetings with UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili, UNGA President Dennis Francis, and tourism ministers from South Africa and Indonesia. These dialogues explored avenues for collaborative action on sustainable tourism practices, climate resilience, and enhanced connectivity.

The Ministry of Tourism remains steadfast in forging robust partnerships with international allies to ensure that tourism acts as a catalyst for positive global transformation. The Maldives' proactive engagement at the UNGA High-Level Thematic Event on Tourism underscores this commitment, cementing the nation's position as a trailblazer in shaping a more sustainable and prosperous future for the industry.