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MINISTRY OF TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

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PRESS RELEASE

Minister of Tourism Ibrahim Faisal Presents the Maldives' Roadmap for a Resilient and Sustainable Tourism Sector at UN High-Level Thematic Event on Tourism

New York, April 16, 2024 - In a momentous address today at the United Nations High-Level Thematic Event on Tourism, Minister of Tourism Ibrahim Faisal shared Maldives' steadfast commitment to fostering global collaboration, aimed at constructing a resilient and sustainable tourism sector.

Minister Faisal, underlining the critical significance of tourism, emphasized its foundational role in shaping the Maldives' economic landscape, driving the nation's GDP, and serving as the primary contributor to foreign exchange reserves. He took pride in highlighting the Maldives' illustrious reputation as the world's leading destination for four consecutive years, underlining a vision dedicated to delivering unparalleled experiences while ensuring enduring benefits for local communities, workers, and enterprises.

Proposing a multifaceted approach centered on resilience-building, innovation, and intensified collaboration, Minister Faisal outlined a strategy poised to ensure the flourishing of island tourism amidst a rapidly evolving global landscape. With a focus on confronting the pressing challenges posed by climate change and public health crises, he underscored the imperative of robust frameworks and innovative financing mechanisms. Minister Faisal also highlighted the Maldives' proactive pursuit of partnerships with international entities, development agencies, and private stakeholders to secure essential resources and drive sustainability-aligned initiatives.

Moreover, Minister Faisal underscored the pivotal role of knowledge exchange and collaboration, particularly among Small Island Developing States, to foster sustainable tourism practices. Citing initiatives such as the "Climate Smart Resilient Islands Initiative," he emphasized the necessity of leveraging collective expertise to navigate shared challenges and seize opportunities for mutual advancement.

In his concluding remarks, Minister Faisal reiterated the paramount importance of safeguarding the well-being of islands, communities, and the environment in charting the future of tourism. By championing resilience, sustainability, diversification, and global collaboration, he expressed unwavering confidence in tourism's potential to emerge as a transformative force for prosperity and sustainable development.

As the Maldives emerges as a beacon of progressive tourism policies, the Ministry of Tourism reaffirms its steadfast commitment to forging alliances with international partners to realize a future where tourism serves as a catalyst for positive global change.