

# NEWSLETTER

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## Official visit of the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India

The Minister of External Affairs of India His Excellency Dr. S. Jaishankar made an Official Visit to Addu City, Maldives from 26-27 March 2022, on the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives His Excellency Abdulla Shahid. This is Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar's third visit to the Maldives, in his capacity as the Minister of External Affairs of India and his first visit to Addu City.



*Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar was received at Addu International Airport by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid, Addu City Mayor Ali Nizar, Members of the People's Majlis of Addu constituency and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*



During the visit, the Minister of External Affairs His Excellency Dr. Jaishankar called on the President of Maldives His Excellency Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and met with his counterpart Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, where both Ministers reviewed the development cooperation projects and discussed strengthening of cooperation in various avenues.

The two Ministers held official bilateral talks during which they reviewed progress in the development projects being implemented in the country under the Indian grant and loan schemes. Both Ministers also exchanged views on matters of mutual interest on issues of regional and international concern.



*Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid during the Official Talks held between Maldives-India.*



*Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar during the Official Talks held between Maldives-India*



*During the courtesy call by His Excellency Dr. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India on President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih at the Equator Village in Addu City.*

During the visit of Minister of External Affairs, a number of key Memorandum of Understandings were concluded. The MoU signed between Ministry of Health of Maldives, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, of India for Reciprocal Recognition of COVID Vaccination



Certificate which will facilitate easier travel between India and Maldives.



*Minister of Health of Maldives His Excellency Ahmed Naseem and High Commissioner of India to the Maldives His Excellency Munu Mahawar signed the (MoU) between Ministry of Health of Maldives, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, of India for reciprocal recognition of COVID vaccination certificate.*

The two Ministers also witnessed the signing of the Peering Agreement between National Centre for Information Technology (NCIT) of the Maldives and National Informatics Centre (NIC) of India, to recognize the general basis for a cooperative and collaborative working relationship between NCIT- Maldives and NIC India, in the areas of Information and Communications Technology, which was followed by the Launch of Connectivity between the Higher Education Network of Maldives (HNM) and the National Knowledge Network of India (NKN). This connection would greatly improve connectivity and collaboration in an abundance of fields pursued by the Government of India including e-governance, digital distanced education, security, space, weather, and e-health.



*Agreement between National Centre for Information Technology (NCIT) of the Republic of Maldives and National Informatics Centre (NIC) of the Republic of India on extending National Knowledge Network of India to the Higher Education Network of Maldives immensely benefit higher education institutes and students*

The inauguration ceremony of the National College for Policing and Law Enforcement

a project implemented in Addu City, under the Indian Grant Assistance was held on 27 March 2022. The National College for Policing and Law Enforcement was jointly inaugurated by President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and Minister of External Affairs Dr. Jaishankar.

During the inauguration ceremony an MoU between Maldives Police Service and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad on capacity building and areas of cooperation was also signed. The MoU is for the establishment of mutual cooperation in the sphere of training management and exchange of trainers and trainees between the two institutes.



*At the Inauguration Ceremony of the National College of Policing and Law Enforcement in Addu City*



*President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih delivers his remarks at the Inauguration Ceremony of the National College of Policing and Law Enforcement in Addu City*



*MoU on capacity building and areas of cooperation signed between Maldives Police Service and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad*



Minister of External Affairs of India during the Inauguration Ceremony of the National College of Policing and Law Enforcement in Addu City

Minister of External Affairs also participated in the inauguration ceremony of the “Vilunu” drug rehabilitation facility, and “Mulimathi” tourism zone, projects implemented under Indian grant assistance - the High Impact Community Development Projects scheme. The Minister of External Affairs also attended the ceremony held for ground breaking of the Addu Development Project and contract awarding of Addu reclamation project, which are being financed under Indian Line of Credit. In addition, External Minister officially handed over the Expanded Coastal Radar System.



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives and Minister of External Affairs of India and Addu City Mayor inaugurated the 'Mulimathi' Tourism Zone



Addu reclamation project contract signed paves the way for the Government's development efforts to bring economic transformation and prosperity to the people of Addu City

## Inauguration of 'Vilunu' drug rehabilitation facility



The rehabilitation centre was inaugurated by Minister of Health Ahmed Naseem, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid, and Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar.



Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid delivering his remarks at the inauguration of the Vilunu Rehabilitation Centre



Minister of External Affairs delivered his remarks during the ceremony

## Official handover Ceremony of the Expanded Coastal Radar System



Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar and Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid during the ceremony held to official handover the Expanded Coastal Radar System to the Maldives





Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar inaugurated the radar system with Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid

### Ground-breaking Ceremony of the Addu Road Development Project



The External Affairs Minister also attended the ceremony held for ground breaking of the Addu Development Project and contract awarding of Addu reclamation project, which are being financed under Indian Line of Credit.



The Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar departed from Maldives on 27 March 2022 after concluding his two-day Official Visit to the Maldives.



Minister of External Affairs was seen off at Gan International Airport by Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid, Mayor of Addu City and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### State Minister Ahmed Khaleel represents the Maldives at the Ministerial-Level Arria-formula Meeting: Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace and Security

As President of the United Nations Security Council, the United Arab Emirates convened a ministerial-level Arria-formula meeting on Climate Finance for Sustainable Peace and Security on 10 March 2022 in New York. The meeting focused on the need and opportunities for climate finance to build and sustain peace in conflict, crisis, and post-conflict situations. State Minister His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel represented the Maldives at the meeting and delivered a statement reiterating the importance of limiting warming and the need for predictable and accessible funding for adaptation and to build resilient and peaceful societies.



*State Minister Ahmed Khaleel delivered his remarks at the Arria-formula meeting on Climate Finance held in New York*

### **State Minister Ahmed Khaleel represents the Maldives at the United Nations Security Council's Open Debate on Advancing Women, Peace and Security (WPS)**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel participated at the United Nations Security Council's Open Debate on Advancing Women Peace and Security held in New York on 9 March 2022. During the statement delivered at the open debate, State Minister Khaleel highlighted that conflicts have far-reaching consequences for all of society, particularly women and reiterated its commitment to promoting women's empowerment and having women in decision – making and executive positions.



*State Minister Ahmed Khaleel delivering his remarks at the UNSC's Open Debate on Advancing Women Peace and Security*

State Minister furthermore acknowledged the progress achieved by the UNSC in advancing the WPS agenda, and called for more efforts to empower women in building peaceful and resilient societies. In addition, State Minister Khaleel highlighted the efforts undertaken by the administration of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to promote gender equality. State Minister reiterated the commitment of the Maldives in promoting women's empowerment and having women in decision-making and executive positions.

### **Foreign Secretary Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed represents the Maldives at the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation**



The Maldives delegation headed by Foreign Secretary, His Excellency Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed participated in the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference held in Islamabad, Pakistan from 23 March 2022. During this session Foreign Secretary delivered the Maldives statement at the Council on 23 March 2022. During his remarks, Foreign Secretary described how the pandemic has further marginalized the most vulnerable communities across the globe. Foreign Secretary further emphasized the importance of capitalizing on the opportunities presented by the COVID-19 outbreak, as we navigate through its challenges. Foreign Secretary further noted the path forward for an all-



inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and equitable recovery lies at the heart of collective action.

Foreign Secretary also drew attention to the most pressing issues facing the Muslim Ummah and voiced solidarity with the people of the Ummah, in particular, Palestinians, Rohingya Muslims, and Afghans, in their aspirations for justice and peace. On this note, he praised the efforts of the Muslim World League and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in promoting Islam in its true moderate form. He also reiterated that the road to peaceful coexistence entails course correction, cooperation and compromise – on all sides.

Foreign Secretary was accompanied by His Excellency Mohamed Khaleel, Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the OIC, High Commissioner of Maldives in Pakistan Her Excellency Farzana Zahir and Assistant Director, Ms. Aishath Fareena.

### 5<sup>th</sup> NSA Level Meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave

Delegations of the founding members of the Colombo Security Conclave; Maldives, India and Sri Lanka, and the newest member of the Conclave, Mauritius, successfully concluded the 5<sup>th</sup> National Security Adviser level meeting held from 9 to 10 March 2022 in Maldives. Delegations from Bangladesh and Seychelles participated as Observers.



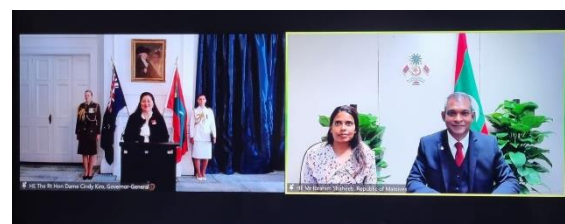
Their Excellencies, Mariya Ahmed Didi, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Maldives; Mr. Ajit Doval, KC, National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister of Republic of India; General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd.), Secretary to the Ministry of Defence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; and Mr. Kumaresan Ilango, National Security Adviser to the Republic of Mauritius, identified key areas of cooperation to enhance and strengthen regional security in the following five pillars:

- *Maritime Safety and Security*
- *Countering Terrorism and Radicalisation*
- *Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organised Crime*
- *Cyber Security, Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology*
- *Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief*

The Member states agreed upon a roadmap for further cooperation and collaboration on these pillars of cooperation. The roadmap will facilitate robust mechanisms for coordinated responses capacity building and strengthening information flow between member states.

### Non-Resident High Commissioner of Maldives to New Zealand presents his Credentials

The Non-Resident High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives to New Zealand, His Excellency Ibrahim Shaheeb, presented his Letter of Credence to the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of New Zealand, Her Excellency The Right Honorable Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO at a ceremony held virtually this morning.





During the virtual courtesy call following the Credential Ceremony, Governor General of New Zealand congratulated High Commissioner Shaheeb on assumption of his duties as the Non-Resident High Commissioner of Maldives to New Zealand and reaffirmed the commitment of the New Zealand Government to further strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries.



### Maldives and the United States sign the seventh amendment to the Development Objective Grant Agreement (DOAG)



High Commissioner Shaheeb during the virtual Ceremony to present his Credentials

### Foreign Service Institute of Maldives holds discussions with the Maldives National University

The Foreign Service Institute of Maldives held a meeting with the Maldives National University on 7 March 2022. Ambassador-at-large Ahmed Saleem from FOSIM and Deputy Vice Chancellor of MNU Dr. Aishath Shehenaz discussed future FOSIM activities to be conducted in collaboration with the University.



The seventh amendment to the Development Objective Grant Agreement (DOAG) was signed between the Maldives and the United States of America, on 16 March 2022.

During a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Khaleel signed the seventh amendment to the DOAG on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Maldives. On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, USAID Mission Director Reed Aeschliman signed the agreement.



Ambassador-at large His Excellency Ahmed Saleem chaired the meeting with Maldives National University



The DOAG is a landmark development cooperation agreement signed between the Maldives and the United States, on 12 March 2019. To date, six amendments have been brought to this agreement, bringing the total contribution from the United States to USD 22.2 million. Through the seventh amendment concluded today, the United States Government commits an additional USD 3.2 million to the Maldives, to strengthen capacity to adapt to climate change, implement economic and democratic reforms and build a robust civil society.

Both State Minister Khaleel and Mission Director Aeschliman also discussed the ongoing projects in the Maldives through USAID funding and reflected on the increased partnership between the Maldives and USAID in the recent years.

State Minister Khaleel also expressed appreciation to the Government of the United States and USAID, for the development assistance programmes under the USAID's portfolio in the Maldives, especially in promoting climate change adaptation, strengthening economic and democratic governance and promoting sustainable economic growth in the Maldives.



The signing ceremony of the seventh amendment of the DOAG was witnessed by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the USAID Mission to the Maldives.

### Message by Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Abdulla Shahid on the occasion of the Commonwealth Day



*"Today, on Commonwealth Day, we join all Commonwealth members, spanning the globe, to celebrate cultural diversity, friendship and the values that bind us. It is a day to reflect on the progress we have made and celebrate our people who have made it possible. This is also the time to weigh up on what more we can do to realize our vision to advance our shared priorities."*

*COVID-19 has brought a number of economic issues to the forefront and revealed our shared fragility. It brought with it a new set of challenges, but it also presented us with many opportunities. With the economic recovery underway, the need for more resilient and sustainable growth is greater. This year's theme demonstrates the many levels at which we need cooperation to ensure that we achieve our shared goals."*

*Commonwealth-Maldives relations have been wide-ranging and prosperous. It has grown to adapt well to our foreign policy priorities over the decades. Our people are deeply appreciative of the opportunities we receive, particularly in the fields of environment, education, technology, and sports. Our joint efforts in echoing and championing the voice and needs of SIDS is fundamental as well."*

*We are proud to have re-joined this family. As the Commonwealth continues to serve as a beacon of hope for many, we look forward to enhancing our partnership in finding solutions to our shared challenges through*

*collective action. In light of this, we reaffirm our commitment to work with the Commonwealth to uphold and work together in 'Delivering a Common Future.'*

## **International Women's Day celebrations**

### ***Interactive Session organised by Ministry***

Ministry organized an interactive session with Villa International High School students on the occasion of International Women's Day 2022, 8 March 2022. The session was conducted by senior foreign service officers of the Ministry. Topics focused on the work of Foreign Ministry, communications skills & women in diplomacy.



*Family Room opened at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*



### ***Inauguration of Family Room at the Ministry***

The family room was inaugurated by Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid on 8 March 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Speaking at the inauguration event, Minister Shahid stated that the family room was established to alleviate some of the difficulties faced by staff in spending time with their children due to their work schedules.

Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid joined virtually during the inauguration. The family room will be a support to staff with children.



*Highlights of engagements by the  
President of the United Nations General  
Assembly*

*His Excellency Abdulla Shahid  
March 2022*

**President of the General Assembly  
Abdulla Shahid's Official Visit to  
Qatar**

At the invitation of the Government of the State of Qatar President of the General Assembly undertook an official visit to Doha, Qatar from 25 to 26 March to take part as a keynote speaker in the opening segment of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Doha Forum. The President of the General Assembly addressed Doha Forum's 2022 theme of "Transforming for a New Era."



*President of the General Assembly was received by H.E. Dr. Ahmad Hassen Al-Hammadi, Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and H.E. Ambassador Alya Al Thani, PR of Qatar to UN*

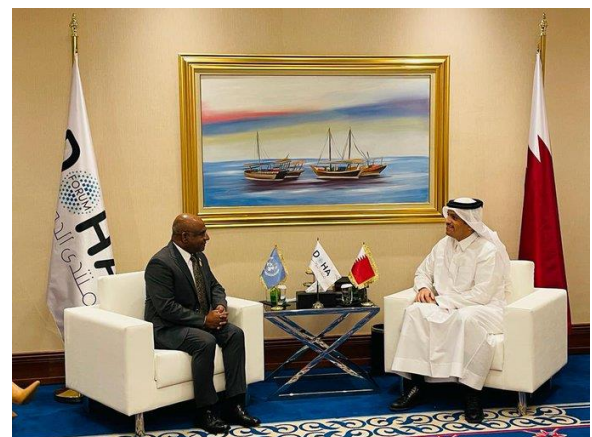


President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid addressed the Doha Forum 2022 on 26 March 2022.



*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid addressing the Doha Forum 2022*

During the remarks delivered by the President of the General Assembly, he high-lighted that the Forum is held at a time of extreme fragility and vulnerability, as countries emerge from a generational pandemic and as new conflicts shake the very foundations of multilateral institutions. President of the General Assembly also mentioned that the past few years have taught that peace, prosperity & security are precious and fleeting without the collective commitment and collective action to maintain them. The recovery must take account of this to build a better world.



*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar*



## Informal Thematic Consultation on UN Secretary-General's report on "our Common Agenda"

Informal Thematic Consultation on UN Secretary-Generals report on "our Common Agenda" was held on 3 March 2022. During his address, President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid stated that our Common Agenda is a bold and compelling vision for a more inclusive and sustainable future. It aims to reinforce and reinvigorate the United Nations, the pinnacle of multilateralism.

In the last 30 years of their membership to the United Nations, the five Central Asian countries have achieved significant progress from pursuing national development priorities, to strengthening regional stability, to economic prosperity.

Speaking further he noted that the wellbeing now depends entirely on the ability to work together, across borders & sectors, to address environmental challenges & to strengthen healthcare policies and systems.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid addressing the Informal Thematic Consultation on UN Secretary-General's report "our Common Agenda"



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid delivering remarks at the final thematic consultation on Our Common Agenda, held on the theme "Enhancing International Cooperation", 10 March 2022

During the closing remarks delivered by the President of the General Assembly, he stated that *Our people, our world, our future deserves that we continue to work together to address all the challenges we face.*

## International Women's Day



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid held an interactive session with women Ambassadors on the eve of International Women's Day 2022



President of the General Assembly hosted the 7th Series of Holhuashi dialogue on 11 March 2022 on the topic "women, peace and Security".



## Special Event

President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid held a special event following the meeting of the General Assembly to mark the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery, on 29 March 2022.

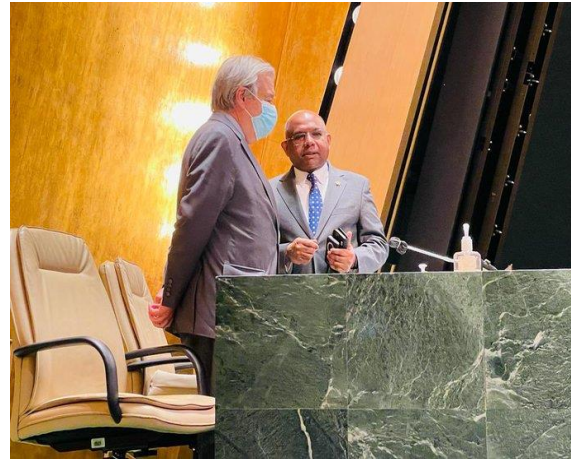


During the statement delivered by President of the General Assembly he stated that it is our obligation to continue to raise awareness of the pernicious legacies of slavery, including racism discrimination and social injustice, while also celebrating the bravery of those who stood against this brutal system.

## Eleventh Emergency Special Session on Ukraine, resumed on 23 March 2022

The Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Ukraine resumed on after 22 member states, including France, the UK and the US, wrote to the President of the 193-member UN body, Abdulla Shahid, to convene the meeting.

President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid presided over the unprecedented Emergency Special Session from February 28 to March 2. It was only the 11<sup>th</sup> such emergency session of the General Assembly since 1950.



*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid continued to preside over the Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly.  
2 March 2022*



*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid resumed 11th Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on Ukraine  
23 March 2022*

## Regular Meetings with Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers, UN Permanent Representatives in New York



*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with His Excellency Ms. Annalena Baerbock, Foreign Minister of Germany. Discussions were held on the situation in Ukraine; Emergency Special Session in the General Assembly; humanitarian relief assistance being extended by Germany to Ukraine; and the need for urgent Security Council reform. 2 March 2022*





*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with His Excellency Ambassador Guillermo, Permanent Representative of Colombia*



*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with Her Excellency Ms Barbara Pompili, French Minister of Ecological Transition. Discussions were held on ongoing negotiations on the sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.*



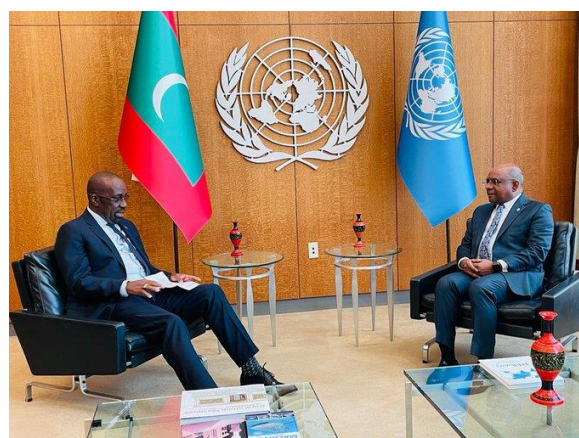
*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with His Excellency Simon Coveney, Ireland's Minister for Foreign & Defense. Discussions were held on the ongoing military offensive in Ukraine, the Emergency Special Session*



*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with His Excellency Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and Special Envoy for Climate Change PGA briefed on Arria Meeting on Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace & Security preparations for COP28 and congratulated UAE for a successful Expo 2020.*



*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with His Excellency Mr. Peter Thomson, UNSG's Special Envoy for the Oceans and former PGA (71st session). Discussions were held on the preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Ocean Conference in June in Portugal and reviewed important climate conferences and efforts to reverse the decline in marine biodiversity.*



*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with His Excellency Mr. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade & Immigration of Antigua and Barbuda. Both exchanged views on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges on SIDS and the importance of the multi-dimensional vulnerability index for small vulnerable countries.*

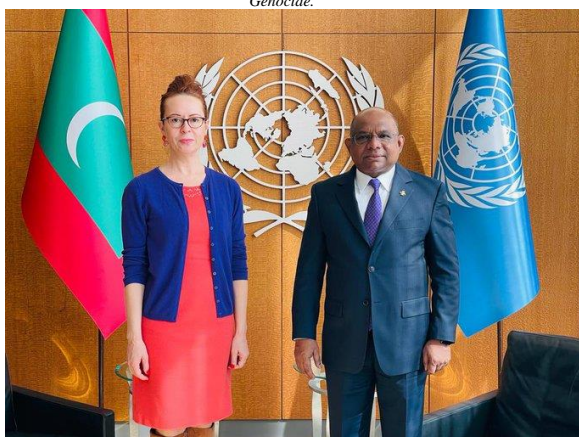




President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Prevention of Genocide.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström, PR of Sweden and Ambassador Njambi Kinyungu, DPR of Kenya. Discussions were held on arrangements for the preparatory meeting on 28 March for Stockholm+50. Stockholm+50 commemorates the 50th anniversary of the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in 1972. 16 March 2022



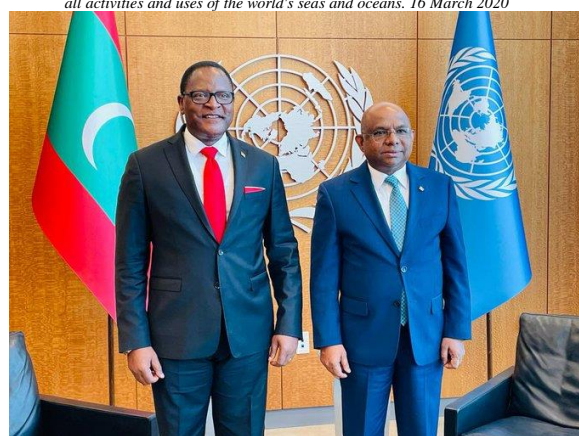
President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with Ambassador His Excellency Besiana Kadare, Permanent Delegate of Albania to UNESCO (and former PR of Albania to UN in NY).



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with His Excellency Mr. Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, Alternate Foreign Minister for European Affairs of Greece. Discussions were held on Ukraine and risk of spillover and importance of UNCLOS40 in providing a comprehensive legal framework governing all activities and uses of the world's seas and oceans. 16 March 2020



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with His Excellency Rau Zbigniew, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland & Chairman-in-Office for the OSCE. Was briefed on the deteriorating situation in Ukraine & the enormity of the humanitarian crises & refugee, 14 March 2022



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with His Excellency Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi. Discussions were held on the importance of LDC5 conference and the issues confronted by the LDCs especially as a result of the ongoing pandemic and climate change. Also touched on other UNGA76 priorities. 16 March 2022



*President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid meeting with Iceland's Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Market H.E. Mr Gu Brandsson. Discussions were held on the situation in Ukraine, COVID19 fallout & UNGA76 priorities. It was agreed that recent events could take away global focus from climate change, reducing inequality & other issues.*