

FOSIM NEWSLETTER

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The Ambassadors and High Commissioners of eight countries present their credentials to the President



The High Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia to the Republic of Maldives H.E. Gabriel P. Simimbo presents credentials to President



Ambassador of Mongolia to the Republic of Maldives H.E. Ganbold Dambajav presents credentials to President of Maldives



Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the Republic of Maldives H.E. Simša Pavić presents credentials to President



Ambassador of France to the Republic of Maldives H.E. Jean-François Pactet presents credentials to President



Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Maldives H.E. Levon Dzhagaryan presents credentials to President



Ambassador of Hellenic Republic to the Maldives H.E. Dimitrios Loannu presents credentials to President



High Commissioner of Canada to the Republic of Maldives H.E. Eric Walsh presents credentials to President



Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the Republic of Maldives H.E. Mateja Vodeb Ghosh presents credentials to President

The newly appointed Ambassadors of Mongolia, France, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Slovenia, and the High Commissioners of the Republic of Namibia and Canada presented their credentials to H.E. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on 19 February 2023. The Ambassadors and High Commissioners presented their credentials to President Solih at a ceremony held at the President's Office.

Following the ceremony, H.E. President Solih met with the Ambassadors and High Commissioners. Speaking at the meeting, President Solih noted the essential roles the accredited High Commissioners and Ambassadors played in strengthening and sustaining bilateral relations between the Maldives and other nations. He also stated that in the past four years, his administration had been able to realize the developmental aspirations of the people and that it had relied on the power of diplomacy and international cooperation based on the three pillars of the Maldives' foreign policy: promotion and protection of human rights, consolidating democracy, and championing climate diplomacy, in fulfilling this commitment.

President Solih also highlighted the necessary fiscal policy changes the administration was undertaking to mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 on the Maldivian economy. Speaking about the importance of increasing people-to-people contact, the President noted that enabling more accessible travel would encourage cultural exchanges, strengthen economic ties, and build everlasting bridges of peace, prosperity, and progress.

The President stated that the Maldives grants on-arrival visas, irrespective of country, and expressed hope for ease of travel for Maldivians by the respective countries soon. President Solih also voiced hope that the relations between the Maldives and the respective nations would be strengthened during their terms.

The Belgian Ambassador presents credentials to the President

The new Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Republic of Maldives, H.E. Didier Vanderhasselt, presented his letter of credence to H.E. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on 27 February 2023.



The Sudanese Ambassador presents credentials to the President

The Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to the Republic of Maldives, H.E. Abdallah Omer Bashir Elhusain, presented his Letter of Credence to H.E. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on 27 February 2023 at a ceremony held at the President's Office.



The High Commissioner of Seychelles presents credentials to the President

The High Commissioner of the Republic of Seychelles to the Republic of Maldives, H.E. Claude Morel, presented his letter of credence to H.E. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on 27 February 2023.



The Swedish Ambassador presents credentials to the President

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Republic of Maldives, H.E. Jan Thesleff, presented his Letter of Credence to H.E. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on 27 February 2023 at a ceremony held at the President's Office.



52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council



The 52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council began on 27 February 2023 in Geneva Switzerland.

The session began with the High-Level Segment which continued from 27 February 2023 to 2 March 2023. The general segment of the 52nd Session of the Human Rights Council continued after the High-Level Segment from 3 March 2023 to 4 April 2023.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid as head of Maldives delegation addressed the Human Rights Council on 27 February 2023. In his statement, Minister Shahid briefed the Council on the progress made by the Government of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the promotion and protection of human rights. In his address, Minister Shahid also highlighted the engagements of the government with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Procedures Mandate-holders. He drew attention to the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action by renewing Maldives commitment to the multilateral system.

Minister Shahid also participated in two high-level side events. The first side event was organized by the Core Group on Human Rights and the Environment on Bridging the gap: Outcomes of multilateral environmental action in 2022 and the Human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, was held on 27 February 2023.

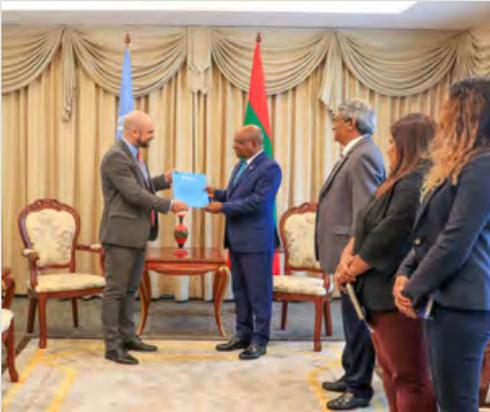
The second side event was organized by the Convention against Torture Initiative titled, By States, for States: Tapping into the Small Island Developing States Experiences with the UN Convention against Torture, and was held on 28 February 2023.



In line with the government's key policies and priorities, the Maldives delegation will deliver national statements in the general segment under several agenda items. The Maldives will be delivering a joint statement for the High Level Panel on the Voluntary Fund for the Universal Periodic Review on behalf of a group of SIDS based in Geneva. The Maldives, together with a cross regional core group, presented a resolution on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.



New UNODC Regional Representative for South Asia presents Letter of Appointment to Foreign Minister



UNODC Regional Representative for South Asia Marco Teixeira presented his Letter of Appointment to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid on 23 February 2023.

During the meeting that followed the presentation, Minister Shahid and the Regional Representative discussed the role of UNODC in South Asia and especially in the Maldives. The discussion also focused on the areas that UNODC is assisting the Government of Maldives in combating transnational organized crime, countering terrorism and violent extremism and shared hopes for strengthened cooperation in the future. The Regional Director also briefed the Minister on the formulation of UNODC's new Regional Programme for South Asia (2023-2027).

Minister Shahid reiterates Government's commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of all migrants in the Maldives



Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid participated in the Regional Meeting on the Protection of Migrants in Vulnerable Situations, held on 23 February 2023. The event was organized by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to bring together stakeholders across the Asia-Pacific region to assess progress in implementing Objective 7 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

In his remarks, Minister Shahid recognized the complexity of the issue of migration and highlighted some of the initiatives undertaken by President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's administration to cater to the needs of the migrant population in the Maldives. In this regard, he emphasized the importance accorded to inclusivity, in the Maldives' approach to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. He also noted the social media programs that were launched with the help of the civil society and United Nations entities to advocate for acceptance, inclusion and empathy towards all members of the society.

Speaking further, Minister Shahid recalled the legislative actions taken by the Government, such as the establishment of the Regulation on Expatriate Employment in 2021, the Regulation of Employees Accommodation Standards in 2021 and the Employment Agency Regulation in 2022.

He concluded his remarks by reiterating the Government's commitment to further strengthen the Maldivian legal framework to provide better protection of the rights of all migrant workers within the jurisdiction.

Minister Shahid calls for the strengthening of the Office of the President of the General Assembly during an informal dialogue on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly

Minister Shahid participated virtually in an informal dialogue hosted by the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (AHWG) on 22 February 2023. Minister Shahid was invited to contribute in his capacity as President of the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.



In his remarks, Minister Shahid emphasised on the mandate of the President and the Office and the various challenges the Office of the President of the General Assembly faces within the delivery of its functions. Minister Shahid also highlighted the importance of having a geographical and gender balanced team. He noted that during his time as President of the General Assembly his team consisted of delegates from 49 countries which represented all the five regions. He highlighted the importance of having representation from small and developing countries. Minister Shahid concluded his remarks by emphasising the importance of the General Assembly.

First Strategic Dialogue between the Maldives and the United Kingdom



The First Strategic Dialogue between the Maldives and the United Kingdom (UK) at the Senior Officials level was held on 20 February 2023 in Male', Maldives. This dialogue aims to facilitate open and constructive engagement between the Maldives and the United Kingdom and to further strengthen the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.



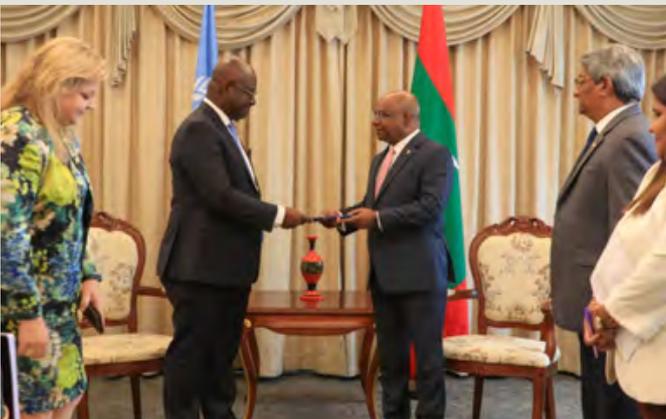
The discussions focused on thematic areas including economic and trade cooperation, security cooperation, governance, democracy, human rights and rule of law, environment and climate change, higher education, visas and immigration and regional and international cooperation. The discussions from the Maldives side were led by Dr. Hala Hameed, Secretary Bilateral at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The discussions from the United Kingdom were led by Ben Mellor, Director, India and Indian Ocean Directorate at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

New UNICEF Representative presents Letter of Appointment to Minister Shahid

The new UNICEF Representative to the Maldives, Dr. Edward Addai presented his Letter of Appointment to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid on 14 February 2023.

During the meeting that followed the presentation, Minister Shahid and the Representative discussed the role of UNICEF in the Maldives, in areas on child protection, maternal and child health, immunization, nutrition, pre and primary education and social inclusion. The discussion also highlighted the progress in the implementation of the UNICEF Country Programme Document which supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2022-2026).



Maldives donates 1 million cans of tuna to Türkiye and Syria

The Maldivian Government announced to donate 1 million cans of tuna to the people of Türkiye and Syria following the devastating earthquake that hit the region on 6 February 2023. Both countries received 500,000 cans respectively from the donation.

This decision was made by His Excellency Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives, in order to extend humanitarian and relief aid to the distressed people in the region.

Foreign Minister Shahid said the following, while speaking on the donation.

"This donation is a demonstration of our solidarity with the people of Türkiye and Syria. We hope that this small contribution will bring a sense of comfort and support to those affected.

Our prayers are with our sisters and brothers as they navigate through these challenging times."

Foreign Minister Shahid participates in the virtual COVID-19 Global Action Plan Ministerial Meeting

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid participated and delivered remarks at the virtual COVID-19 Global Action Plan Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Antony Blinken on 8 February 2023.



In his remarks, Minister Shahid reflected on the achievements of the GAP initiative, which was instrumental in providing vaccines to vulnerable countries and ensuring mechanisms were in place for vaccines to be administered. Minister Shahid also briefed the partners on the measures taken by the Government of Maldives to vaccinate 85 percent of the resident population including locals and migrants, irrespective of their status or origin.

Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid undertakes official visit to Sri Lanka to attend the celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, Abdulla Shahid undertook an official visit to Sri Lanka from 2-5 February 2023, at the invitation of His Excellency M.U.M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, to attend the celebrations for the 75th Anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka.

During the visit, Minister Shahid paid courtesy calls on His Excellency Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Dinesh Gunawardena, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and met with his counterpart His Excellency M.U.M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka.

Minister Shahid also visited the High Commission of the Maldives in Sri Lanka and met with the Maldivian community residing in Sri Lanka.

Minister Shahid was accompanied by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr Ahmed Khaleel; Secretary Bilateral, Her Excellency Dr Hala Hameed; Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hussain Jahhaz; and Assistant Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Aishath Fareena.



High Commissioner of Maldives to Sri Lanka Presents her letter of Credence to the President of Sri Lanka

The High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Ali Faiz presented his Letter of Credence to the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Ranil Wickremesinghe on 2 February 2023.

His Excellency Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of Sri Lanka, congratulated High Commissioner Faiz on the assumption of his duties as High Commissioner of Maldives to Sri Lanka. The President provided his assurance that his Government will work closely with the Government of Maldives for the benefit of the two countries and its peoples.



Non-Resident Ambassador of Maldives to Finland presents her letter of Credence to the President of Finland

Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the Federal Republic of Germany, Aishath Shaan Shakir, presented her Letter of Credence to Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland as the Non-Resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Maldives to the Republic of Finland at a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki on 16 February 2023.

During the Credential Ceremony, President Niinistö welcomed Ambassador Shaan and wished her success in undertaking her duties. Ambassador Shaan expressed gratitude and conveyed personal greetings and warm felicitations from President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to the President, the Government, and people of Finland. She also expressed her commitment to furthering existing bilateral relations and close cooperation between the two countries.



Foreign Minister Shahid inaugurates FOSIM Outreach Programme



Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid inaugurated the first session of FOSIM outreach Programme on 15 February 2023 and delivered remarks highlighting the history and evolution of Maldives Foreign Policy, key foreign policy priorities and achievements. FOSIM Outreach Programme is a programme conducted by the Foreign Service Institute of Maldives aimed at State Institutions, Government Ministries, school and university students with the central aim of providing and raising awareness on the Maldives foreign policy, the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, bilateral relations, and commercial diplomacy. The inauguration session of the FOSIM Outreach Programme was attended by Government Ministries, school, and university students.



The Foreign Service Institute of Maldives in Collaboration with Maldives National University holds Panel Discussion on Maldives Membership at the Human Rights Council

The Foreign Service Institute of Maldives (FOSIM) in collaboration with Maldives National University held a panel discussion on the theme 'Maldives at the Human Rights Council: History and Future Prospects' on 22 February 2023.



Panelists from Ministry of Foreign Affairs focused their discussion on Maldives initiatives and engagements at the Human Rights Council, and shared key priorities for the upcoming 52nd Session of Human Rights Council.

The following Panelists from Ministry participated in the Panel Discussion.

- 1.H.E Dr. Asim Ahmed Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations Office and other International Organisation in Geneva (via Zoom)
- 2.H.E Ahmed Saleem, , Ambassador-at- Large
- 3.H.E Dr. Hala Hameed, Secretary, Bilateral
- 4.Ms. Shiuneen Rasheed, Joint Secretary
5. Ms. Shahiya Ali Manik, Director
- 6.Ms. Aishath Shahula, Assistant Director

The Panel discussion was moderated by Fathimath Raafia Shareef, student studying Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations at the Maldives National University.