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In this issue:

Vice President Faisal Naseem represents the Maldives at the High-Level Thematic Debate on Putting sustainable and resilient tourism at the heart of inclusive recovery held in New York ...1	
The New Ambassadors of Bhutan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and High Commissioner of South Africa presents credentials to the President.1	
Maldives and Kazakhstan Sign Visa Waiver Agreement.....2	
New Ambassador of Bhutan to the Maldives Calls on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.....3	
Newly appointed Ambassador of Brazil to the Maldives calls on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs3	
Newly appointed Non-Resident Ambassador of Egypt to the Maldives calls on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs4	
Newly appointed Non-Resident High Commissioner of South Africa to Maldives calls on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.....4	
New Ambassador of Indonesia Calls on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs4	
Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India calls on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs5	
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs represents the Maldives at the 78 th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)5	
UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights & Counter-Terrorism's Country visit to the Maldives.....6	
Maldives Foreign Service established on 14 May 20226	
The President appoints Ahmed Latheef as Foreign Secretary.....7	

The President appoints Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed as Ambassador-at-Large.....7	
The President appoints Ambassadors to Japan, and Belgium/EU8	
FOSIM holds Training Session on Protocol Etiquettes.....8	
FOSIM holds session on foreign policy of Maldives to students from Maldives National University.....8	

Highlights of Engagements by the President of the UN General Assembly in May 2022

High-Level Thematic Debate on Sustainable Tourism 10	
President of the UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid's Official visit to Côte d'Ivoire 10	
President of the UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid's Official visit to Angola..... 11	
International Migration Review Forum 2022, Informal Multi-Stakeholder Hearing 11	
President of the UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid's Official visit to Bangkok, Thailand..... 11	
President of the UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid's Official visit to Indonesia..... 12	
President of the UN General Assembly Abdulla Shahid's Official visit to Brunei 13	
Regular Meetings with Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers, UN Permanent Representatives in New York 13	

Vice President Faisal Naseem represents the Maldives at the High-Level Thematic Debate on Putting sustainable and resilient tourism at the heart of inclusive recovery held in New York

Vice President His Excellency Faisal Naseem represented the Maldives at the High-Level Thematic Debate centred on “Putting sustainable and resilient tourism at the heart of inclusive recovery” Organised by the United Nations President of the General Assembly in association with the World Tourism Organisation which was held in New York on 4 May 2022.



During the statement delivered at the Debate, Vice President Faisal Naseem highlighted on the reason why tourist flock to Maldives islands, stating that the Maldives have the privilege to host some of the richest biodiversity in the world, including 5 per cent of our planet’s coral reefs, and the seventh-largest reef ecosystem in the world. “Our seas are home to over a thousand fish species, two hundred species of corals, twenty species of whales and dolphins, and forty species of sharks” stated the Vice President. In addition, Vice President further noted that “The Maldives Tourism Master Plan reflects the commitment to ensuring that tourism industry of Maldives is grounded in protecting the environment, conservation and sustainability.”



Aside from the high-level thematic debate Vice President Faisal Naseem paid a courtesy call on the President of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid. During the courtesy call the Vice President noted the President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid’s efforts to promote equal rights for women and youth voices.

The New Ambassadors of Bhutan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and High Commissioner of South Africa presents credentials to the President.

During the month of May Newly appointed Ambassadors of Bhutan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and High Commissioner of South Africa to the Maldives presented their credentials to the President His Excellency Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.



The new Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the Republic of Maldives His Excellency Rinchen Kuentsyl presenting his credentials to His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on 9 May 2022



The new Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Sergio Luiz Canaes presenting his credentials to His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on 9 May 2022



The new non-Resident High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to the Maldives presented his credentials to His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.



The new Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Nurlan Zhalgasbayev presenting his credentials to His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on 9 May 2022



The new Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Republic of Maldives Her Excellency Dewi Gustina Tobing presented her credentials to His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

Maldives and Kazakhstan Sign Visa Waiver Agreement

The Government of Maldives and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 9 May 2022, signed the Agreement on Mutual Exemption of Visa Requirements, which allows for the exemption from visa requirements for both country's nationals, for single or multiple entry, exit or transit for both country's nationals, for a period of 30 days.

At the ceremony which was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of Maldives by His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and on behalf of the Government of Kazakhstan by His Excellency Nurlan Zhalgasbayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Maldives.



The new non-resident Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Maldives His Excellency Maged Mosleh presented his credentials to His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Maldives His Excellency Nurlan Zhalgasbayev during the signing of the Visa Waiver Agreement.

Speaking at the ceremony, State Minister Khaleel thanked the Government of Kazakhstan for their commitment to further strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two countries, and mentioned that the signing of this agreement is an important milestone that will facilitate stronger people to people contact, and increase business and investment opportunities for both the Maldives and Kazakhstan.

New Ambassador of Bhutan to the Maldives Calls on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

The new Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan, His Excellency Rinchen Kuentsyl paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, on 9 May 2022 following the ceremony held at President's Office to present his Credentials to the President.

During the meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Minister Khaleel congratulated Ambassador Kuentsyl on presenting his credentials to President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, and expressed his confidence that the relations between the two countries will be further reinvigorated during his tenure.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel and the new Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan, His Excellency Rinchen Kuentsyl

State Minister Khaleel noted that Maldives values the traditionally close and friendly ties with Bhutan and expressed interest to widen the scope of collaboration between the two countries in areas of mutual interest. State Minister Khaleel and Ambassador Kuentsyl agreed on the importance of people-to-people engagement in strengthening bilateral ties, and exchanged views on working more closely in the sectors of health, tourism, youth and sports development and climate change.

Newly appointed Ambassador of Brazil to the Maldives calls on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

The new Ambassador of Brazil to the Maldives Sergio Luiz Canaes called on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Khaleel, on 9 May 2022. During the meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Minister Khaleel congratulated Ambassador Canaes on his appointment and discussed avenues for strengthening relations between the two countries.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel and the new Ambassador of Brazil to the Maldives Sergio Luiz Canaes

State Minister Khaleel also thanked the Ambassador and the Government of Brazil for the generous donation of 82,390 doses of life saving vaccines for children. These vaccines, which are scheduled to arrive in the coming months, will support the national immunization programme of the country.

Newly appointed Non-Resident Ambassador of Egypt to the Maldives calls on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

The newly appointed Non-Resident Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Maged Mosleh Nafei paid a courtesy call on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel, on 17 May 2022 following the ceremony held at the President's Office to present his Credentials to the President.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel and Newly appointed Non-Resident Ambassador of Egypt to Maldives His Excellency Maged Mosleh Nafei.

At the meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Minister Khaleel welcomed Ambassador Nafei and congratulated him on presenting credentials as the Non-Resident Ambassador from Egypt to Maldives. State Minister expressed confidence that the Maldives and Egypt would continue to further reinforce the strong bonds of solidarity and mutual cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Newly appointed Non-Resident High Commissioner of South Africa to Maldives calls on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

The newly appointed Non-Resident High Commissioner of South Africa to the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Sandile Edwin Schalk paid a courtesy call on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel on 17 May 2022.

At the meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Minister Khaleel welcomed High Commissioner Schalk and congratulated him on presenting credentials as the Non-Resident High Commissioner from South Africa to Maldives. Underscoring the long-standing bonds of friendship between the Maldives and South Africa, State Minister Khaleel and Ambassador Schalk exchanged views on further consolidating bilateral ties and intensifying collaboration and exchanges between the two countries.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel and Newly appointed Non-Resident High Commissioner of South Africa to the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Sandile Edwin Schalk.

New Ambassador of Indonesia Calls on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

The newly appointed Ambassador of Indonesia to Maldives, Her Excellency Mrs. Dewi Gustina Tobing, paid a courtesy call on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel, following the presentation of her credentials to H.E. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih at a ceremony held at the President's Office on 17 May 2022.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel and Newly appointed Ambassador of Indonesia to Maldives, Her Excellency Mrs. Dewi Gustina Tobing

State Minister Khaleel congratulated Ambassador Dewi on presenting her credentials to the President and expressed confidence that the Ambassador would strengthen further, the bilateral ties and cooperation between Maldives and Indonesia. State Minister Khaleel and Ambassador Dewi further exchanged ideas on improving cooperation between both the countries on potential areas, mainly technical cooperation, capacity building, maritime issues, fisheries, connectivity and trade. Both State Minister and Ambassador also discussed common areas of concerns, on climate change and cooperation in the multilateral arena.

Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India calls on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India, Leena Nandan paid a courtesy call on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Khaleel on 18 May 2022.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel and Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India, Leena Nandan.

State Minister welcomed Secretary Nandan to the Maldives and reviewed the important

initiatives undertaken in the field of environment and climate change on bilateral and multilateral fronts. State Minister highlighted the significance of international cooperation in addressing the environmental challenges and reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen the efforts in combating climate change. Both State Minister Khaleel and Secretary Nandan also discussed on broadening areas of collaboration in the field of environment between both countries.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs represents the Maldives at the 78th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Khaleel represented the Maldives at the 78th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held in Bangkok, Thailand on 23 May 2022. State Minister delivered the statement under the agenda item 2 (a) General debate: “A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”.



In his remarks, State Minister Khaleel drew attention to how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected lives, and noted that despite the debilitating impact of the pandemic, the saying that “every cloud has a silver lining” is true. State Minister positively noted that

the pandemic gave the Maldives the opportunity to improve its healthcare system and noted that the pandemic served as a reminder that no one is safe until we are all safe. State Minister further stressed on Maldives' full support for declaring vaccines as a global public good with equitable access to all.

State Minister Khaleel also drew attention to the urgent measures needed to tackle global warming, in order to avert the impending climate catastrophe, and stressed the importance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius in line with the Paris Agreement.



Maldives delegation representing 78th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

In his statement, State Minister Khaleel conveyed a message to the UNESCAP on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, congratulating the Commission and its secretariat for the valuable and substantial contribution made by the Commission to the development of the Asia Pacific region over the past 75 years.

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights & Counter-Terrorism's Country visit to the Maldives

The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ms. Fionnuala Ní Aoláin undertook a country visit to the Maldives from 15-24 May 2022.

After the ten-day visit by the Special Rapporteur a debriefing session was held chaired by the Foreign Secretary Ahmed Latheef. During the debriefing session Foreign Secretary expressed gratitude to the Special Rapporteur for accepting the Government's standing invitation and visiting the Maldives and reaffirmed to the Special Rapporteur, the Government's commitment to engage with the international community and the UN human rights mechanisms. The Special Rapporteur thanked the Government for extending the invitation and for the cooperation and support provided to her and the team throughout their visit. The Special Rapporteur provided an overview of the preliminary findings of her visit. While acknowledging the Government's achievements, the Special Rapporteur noted the enormous challenges the Government faces in addressing various human rights-related issues facing the Maldives and expressed willingness to provide full support and expertise to the Government in addressing these challenges.



The Special Rapporteur will present her report to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2023, at the Council's 52nd session.

Maldives Foreign Service established on 14 May 2022

The Maldives Foreign Service Act was ratified by President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in November 2021, and came into effect on 14 May 2022. On this momentous occasion Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid met with Foreign Ministry staff and stated that the implementation of the Foreign Service Act in the Maldives for the first

time is a testament to the strong foreign policy of the administration of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

Foreign Minister Shahid further stated that Foreign Service Act is the result of dedicated efforts to strengthen the administration of foreign service as per the vision of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. Foreign Minister further congratulated all staff of the foreign service on this historical occasion, noting the establishment of a separate foreign service has been a dream of many working in the foreign service. Foreign Minister Shahid further stated that the foreign service is the first line of defence in protecting the independence and sovereignty of the nation, and called on the foreign service staff to remain dedicated towards fulfilling their national duties in maintaining the Maldives' strong position in the international arena and implementing the foreign policies of the administration.

Furthermore, Minister Shahid said the Maldivian foreign Service is currently experiencing its most successful and fruitful days, with the country leading the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for the first time ever. Minister Shahid also highlighted the strong diplomatic and bilateral ties built over the past few years, and the strong human resource capacity built in the foreign service during this time.

The Maldives Foreign Service Act governs the establishment of a separate entity titled Foreign Service to implement the foreign policy of the Maldives and specifies its organisational structure, management policy, and matters relating to diplomatic cadre.

The act stipulates that the Maldives Foreign Service will embody the Ministry and oversee all Maldivian missions and consular posts. The act stipulates the President is the highest authority tasked with overseeing and directing the Maldives' foreign policy.

The President appoints Ahmed Latheef as Foreign Secretary

On 1 May 2022 President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih appointed Ahmed Latheef as Foreign Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ahmed Latheef began his Foreign Service career in 1981 and served at different posts in the area of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In this regard, Ahmed Latheef served as the first Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the Republic of China in 2007 and held tenure for 5 years. Prior to his appointment as Foreign Secretary Ahmed Latheef served as the Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the Federal Republic of Germany.

The President appoints Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed as Ambassador-at-Large

On 1 May 2022 President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih appointed H.E. Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed as Ambassador-at-Large.

An accomplished diplomat, Ghafoor has served the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Maldives, both at headquarters and in a number of foreign postings. Starting his career as a Program Officer in 1983, he has held the post of Assistant Undersecretary, Assistant Director, Political Affairs and Deputy Director and Director, Foreign Relations, at the Ministry. During his long and distinguished career in the Maldives foreign service, Ghafoor also served as Counsellor and then Deputy High Commissioner of Maldives to Sri Lanka and later as Deputy High Commissioner of Maldives to Malaysia. He was appointed as the Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations Offices in Geneva in 2008 and 2009. During this time, he was concurrently accredited as the Ambassador to the United States of America and Non-Resident High Commissioner to Canada. Prior to his new appointment, Abdul Ghafoor Mohamed served as the Foreign Secretary.

The President appoints Ambassadors to Japan, and Belgium/EU

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on 30 May 2022, appointed His Excellency Hassan Sobir as the Ambassador of the Republic of the Maldives to Japan and His Excellency Omar Abdul Razzak as the Ambassador of the Republic of Maldives to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the European Union (EU). President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih presented the two Ambassadors with their letters of credence at a ceremony held at the President's Office.



Prior to the appointment, Hassan Sobir served as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Maldives to the Kingdom of Belgium and as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of Mission of the Republic of the Maldives to the EU.

Omar Abdul Razzak served before his appointment as the High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

FOSIM holds Training Session on Protocol Etiquettes

The Foreign Service Institute of Maldives (FOSIM) held a training session on Protocol Etiquettes for the staff of Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Technology, on 12 May 2022.

The interactive session focused on enabling participants to acquire basic and

foundational knowledge and skills on diplomatic protocols, protocol etiquettes for them to function effectively in their respective work environment. A total of 10 participants from the Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Technology participated in the training session.



The session was conducted as part of FOSIM stakeholder Awareness Programme, which is an ongoing programme designed to share knowledge and experience, and build expertise on various subject areas targeted to relevant Government Ministries. The session was conducted by senior officials of the Ministry including Chief of Protocol Aishath Shaan Shakir, Assistant Director Shafraz Rasheed and Senior Desk Officer Mohamed Najeel.

FOSIM holds session on foreign policy of Maldives to students from Maldives National University

The Foreign Service Institute of Maldives (FOSIM) held a session on foreign policy of Maldives for students undertaking the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations at the Maldives National University. A total of 21 students from the Maldives National University participated in the session. The interactive session focused on further enhancing knowledge of students on foreign policy, and foreign policy goals of Maldives.



The session was conducted as part of FOSIM's school /university outreach programme, which is a programme designed to create awareness and generate interest of youth in embracing the foreign service as a career. The programme also facilitates senior foreign service officers to share knowledge and experience on various subject areas.



Foreign Secretary His Excellency Ahmed Latheef interacted with the students during the session where he shared his insights and experience in the foreign service.

The session was conducted by senior officials of the Ministry.

*Highlights of engagements by
the President of the United
Nations General Assembly
His Excellency Abdulla Shahid
In May 2022*

High-Level Thematic Debate on Sustainable Tourism

On 4 May 2022 the President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid convened a High-level Thematic Debate on the theme Sustainable tourism. This debate was conducted in close collaborations with World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The Purpose of this Debate is for the stakeholders and Member States to discuss strategies and share practices and experiences in three High-Level Thematic roundtables each focusing how tourism can advance recovery for the people, the planet and prosperity.



In the opening remarks the President of the General Assembly had stated that “As we begin the long journey of recovery from COVID-19, we face a critical opportunity to not only reboot tourism – on which so many are dependent upon for jobs and livelihoods – but to transform it, to build a global tourism sector that is more sustainable, more resilient, and more responsible.” The President of the General

Assembly had also urged everyone who is travelling to ensure that they are doing it responsibly, for themselves, for each other and for our planet.

President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid’s Official visit to Côte d'Ivoire

The President of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, undertook an official visit to Côte d'Ivoire from 9-11 May 2022. This is ahead of the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.



President of the UN General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid attending the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The agenda for the conference include the restoration of one billion hectares of degraded land between now and 2030 and future-proofing people, their homes and lands against the impacts of disaster risks linked to climate change, such as droughts, and sand and dust storms. The conference is also expected to agree on policy actions to provide an enabling environment for land restoration through stronger tenure rights, gender equality, land use planning and youth engagement to draw private sector investment to conservation, farming, and land uses and practices to improve the health of the land.



President of the UN General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid delivering his remarks at the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

During the remarks delivered by the President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid, he stated that “Productive land is critical to global food security and healthy ecosystems, as well as to the maintenance of stable livelihoods. It is a precondition for the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; for progress on the Rio Conventions on biodiversity and climate change; and for tackling pollution on land and at sea.”

President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid’s Official visit to Angola

The President of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, undertook an official visit to Angola from 12-14 May 2022 to see first-hand how the government led by President of Angola His Excellency João Lourenço is facing drought and desertification in south of Angola. This marks the first visit of a President of the General Assembly to the country of Angola.

During the visit the President of the General Assembly had called on President of Angola His Excellency João Lourenço and commended Angola’s Commitment to multilateralism, Contribution to the work of the United Nations and the efforts to fight severe drought through the Cunene water transfer system.



President of the UN General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid called on the President of Angola His Excellency João Lourenço.

International Migration Review Forum 2022, Informal Multi-Stakeholder Hearing

The International Migration Review Forum 2022 which was held from 17-20 May 2022 serves as the primary intergovernmental global platform for Member States to assess and deliberate on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, including as it is related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Furthermore, the President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid organized and presided over a one-day informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing on 16 May 2022. This hearing provided a significant opportunity for all relevant stakeholders to engage actively in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, building on the regional reviews.



President of the UN General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid presiding over the one-day informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing.

President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid’s Official visit to Bangkok, Thailand

The President of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, undertook an official visit to Bangkok from 22-23 May 2022 as part of the first leg of the three-nation tour ahead of the 75th anniversary celebration of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific’s establishment and the 78th Session of the UNESCAP.

The theme for the 78th session for the UNESCAP was "A common agenda to advance sustainable development Asia & the Pacific". During the opening remarks delivered, the President of the UN General Assembly stated that as the Session deliberates on a Common Agenda for Advancing Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, we need to chart a path forward. A path that recognizes the challenges and agrees on collective responsibilities. These pathways should be inclusive and centred on protecting people and the planet. They must address inequalities and debt burden; leverage technologies; create economic opportunities; promote partnerships, and support vulnerable countries in the region."



President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid's Official visit to Indonesia

The President of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Abdullah Shahid, undertook an official visit to Indonesia from 24 – 27 May 2022 to take part in the Global Platform for The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.



During the remarks delivered by the President of the UN General Assembly at the Global Platform for The United Nations

Office for Disaster Risk Reduction the President stated that "We must recommit to the principles of the Sendai Framework & dramatically increase our investments in disaster risk reduction, particularly prevention and preparedness." Additionally, President of the General Assembly highlighted the importance of risk reduction and the need for it to be embedded in everyone's lives.



President of the General Assembly received the President of the Republic of Indonesia His Excellency President Joko Widodo for the Global platform for United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022.

In addition to attending the global platform during the visit the President of the UN General Assembly had visited the Green School Bali which is a faculty that imparts a living curriculum that educates its student body in the principles of sustainability through community-integrated, entrepreneurial learning, in a natural environment.



President of the General Assembly Abdulla Shahid's Official visit to Brunei

The President of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, undertook an official visit to Brunei from 28-29 May 2022. This was the last leg of the three-nation tour by the President of the UNGA.



During this visit the President of the UN General Assembly had called on His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Brunei. During this meeting the President of the UN General Assembly commended Brunei for its active role in the multilateral level and able leadership of ASEAN.



Furthermore, a Public Lecture was also held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam where the President of the UN General Assembly stated that “The success of regional organizations is a powerful counterargument to misgivings about the ability of countries to coalesce and work together to find solutions to shared challenges.”



At the end of the Brunei visit the President of the UN General Assembly interacted with the media and spoke about a myriad of topics such as the 76th United Nations General Assembly challenges, Covid-19 disruptions, impressions of Brunei, climate change, youth, gender equality and misinformation.

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

President of the General Assembly's regular meetings with Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers, the Permanent Representatives, and Heads of International Organisations continued in May.



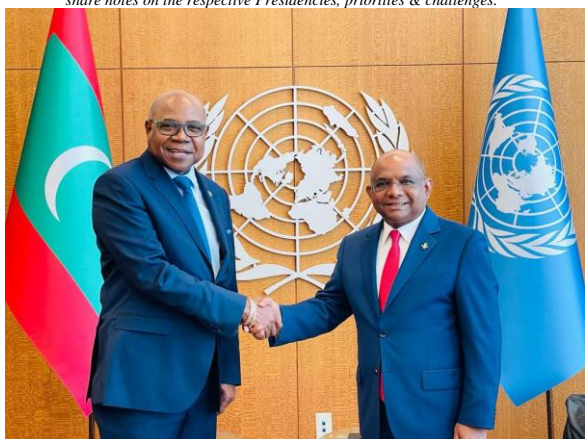
President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with India's Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Her Excellency Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi. Discussed the ongoing conflict in Ukraine on the global commodity, financial and energy markets across the world.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Culture Minister of Azerbaijan His Excellency Mr. Anar Karimov and Was briefed on the "Peace4Culture Global Call" initiative which emphasizes intercultural & interreligious dialogue & the interdependence of peaceful relations & the safeguarding of cultural & religious heritage.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the 73rd President of the General Assembly Her Excellency Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa. to share notes on the respective Presidencies, priorities & challenges.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Tourism Minister of Jamaica His Excellency Mr. Edmund Bartlett. Discussed issues pertaining to vulnerability of the tourism sector to climate change & importance of building resilience



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with Hungarian Candidate for the President of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly His Excellency Mr. Csaba Kőrösi.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Minister of Tourism of Paraguay, Her Excellency Sofia Montiel De Afara



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Minister of Tourism of Italy His Excellency Mr. Massimo Garavaglia. Exchanged views on the importance and urgency of a sustainable tourism recovery to kickstart the global economy and the crucial role that Italy, as a G20 member can play in debt-sustainability.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Tourism & Creative Economy Minister of Indonesia His Excellency Mr. Sandiaga Salahuddin Uno.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization His Excellency Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili and commended the WTO's close cooperation with WHO to minimize the impact on travel due to Covid-19.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Chairman of the Committee of Tourism Development, Republic of Tajikistan His Excellency Mr. Tojiddin Jurazoda. Discussed the importance of tourism recovery which is connected to the achievement of all the SDGs & new initiatives launched by the Republic of Tajikistan to boost rural/mountain tourism.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Permanent Representative of The Czech Republic His Excellency Ambassador Jakub Kulhanek. Discussed the international ramifications of the ongoing military aggression in Ukraine and the rallying of member states in support of the UN Charter in these very testing times.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Minister of Tourism & Environment of the Republic of Albania Her Excellency Mirela Kumbaro. Discussed issues pertaining to sustainable tourism, climate change & women's empowerment.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Minister of Health of Italy His Excellency Mr. Roberto Speranza. Discussions touched on pandemic preparedness, global health governance issues, vaccine equity & the importance of multilateralism for addressing current & emerging global challenges



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Foreign Minister of Italy His Excellency Luigi Di Maio. Discussed the crisis in Ukraine, Food security and UNSC reform



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Migration and Asylum Minister of Greece His Excellency Panagiotis Mitarachi. Discussed how the challenge of migration will accelerate in the coming years.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations His Excellency Ambassador Taye Atskeleslassie Amde.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Mr. Francesco Rocca. Was briefed on the role of local actors who are crucial to saving lives & in preparing communities in humanitarian situations



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Minister of Labour, Immigration & Employment of Tajikistan, Her Excellency Ms. Shirin Amonzoda.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with Argentina's Secretary for Malvinas, Antarctica & the South Atlantic, Ambassador Guillermo Carmona. Discussed matters pertaining to the upcoming meeting of C-24.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala His Excellency Mr. Mario Adolfo Bócaro Flores. Reflected on the need enhance global cooperation on the issue of migration.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Permanent Representative of the State of Eritrea to the United Nations, Her Excellency Ambassador Sophia Tesfamariam. Discussed upcoming high-level events on Africa, sustainable debt and climate.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the His Excellency Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye. Discussions primarily touched on issues relating to migration



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Minister of State for External Affairs for India, His Excellency Mr. V. Muraleedharan. Discussed the ongoing impact of the Ukraine crises on global food security, the open debate in the UNSC on the issue



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia & Herzegovina, His Excellency Dr. Zoran Tegeltija.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Foreign Minister of Luxembourg, His Excellency Mr. Jean Asselborn.



President of the General Assembly His Excellency Abdulla Shahid met with the Chief of State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Discussed a range of issues including on migration.