

The Speech -Presented at the UNFCCC, COP 26 (Side Event) by Hon.Khadeeja Naseem, Minister of State for Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Maldives -3rd November 2021

Excellencies ladies and gentlemen let me begin by extending my gratitude to the government of Sri Lanka and SACEP for convening this important event in allowing me to be part of it. Let me also take this opportunity to commend the government of Sri Lanka for taking the lead on this very important initiative on nitrogen management. Maldives is committed to support this important initiative and is looking forward to a successful outcome as nitrogen management is crucial in our mitigation efforts as well. While impacts of Climate Change are heightened for vulnerable island nations such as ours, the fact of the matter is that no nation is immune from the climate crisis despite the challenges we face as a small island developing state in combating the crisis and although the Maldives contribution to the global greenhouse emissions is only 0.03%. We're committed to do our part. We're also determined to show leadership and continue to advocate for more ambitious climate actions to address the climate crisis, however emission reductions is not going to be achieved by the reduction of the carbon emissions alone. Reductions and adequate management of other greenhouse gases such as nitrogen is crucial, is highlighted in the beginning as well, the direct global warming potential of nitrous oxide is more than 200 times greater than carbon dioxide if we consider a time horizon of 100 years. So we have to acknowledge that nitrogen in various forms is heavily used in our daily needs. Especially in agricultural and industrial processes, hence Maldives also plays significant importance on the sustainable management of nitrogen as unmanaged nitrogen will have negative impacts on our marine environment, as well as our already limited resources. Excellencies, to achieve the objective better management of nitrogen our existing knowledge base on nitrogen cycles and its safe management need to be broader, alternative technologies and research is an area which is more collaborative efforts this is extremely crucial in sustainable management of nitrogen and this is also important in our endeavor to reach net zero. So better management and emissions reductions is vital in this regard and this need to be reflected in our emission reduction plans as well. So before I conclude I would like reiterate our full support and commitment on advancing

this important initiative and let me also thank the government of Sri Lanka and SACEP once again for this opportunity. Thank You