



**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Maldives**



Foreign Policy of the Maldives

building resilience, making Maldivians proud

Our Vision & Mission

Vision

To strive to make Maldivians proud by making the country a resilient nation

Mission

To increase opportunities for the economic advancement of Maldivians and to promote the national interests of the Maldives through innovative approaches

Foreign Policy Principles

1. Sovereign equality of States in accordance with international law
2. A rule-based and inclusive international system
3. Non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries
4. The supremacy of diplomacy in managing and resolving global problems
5. Friendship with all countries based on mutual respect

Foreign Policy Goals

Goal 1	Enhance the security and national sovereignty of the Maldives through increased bilateral and multilateral engagement
Goal 2	Protect the Islamic identity of the Maldives and help to promote the values of Islam internationally
Goal 3	Increase the economic resilience of the Maldives
Goal 4	Promote greater regional cooperation in South Asia
Goal 5	Provide quality consular services for Maldivians
Goal 6	Promote efficiency and professionalism in the service

Foreign Policy Strategies

Goal 1

Enhance the security and national sovereignty of the Maldives through increased bilateral and multilateral engagement

The most viable long-term security guarantee for the Maldives is maintaining sound bilateral relationships with major regional and global powers. The Maldives believes that its security and the respect for its national sovereignty would be enhanced by working towards strengthening and promoting international law; regional and international stability, peace, and security; and the multilateral system.

Strategy 1	Consolidate the Maldives' bilateral relationships with key regional and global powers
Strategy 2	Strengthen the Maldives' engagement with South Asian and Indian Ocean rim countries to combat terrorism, piracy, and other non-traditional security threats.
Strategy 3	Strengthen the active participation of the Maldives at UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council, and other UN bodies, and actively contribute to collective problem solving.
Strategy 4	Strengthen the active participation of the Maldives at key international organisations that enhances the country's diplomatic outreach and promote greater global recognition for the Maldives.

Strategy 5	Increase the Maldives participation in international efforts at promoting and maintaining stability, peace, and security.
Strategy 6	Deepen the bonds of friendship and cooperation with key international civil society organisations and international foreign policy think-tanks.
Strategy 7	Strengthen regional cooperation in South Asia
Strategy 8	Strengthen Maldives capacity and reporting to the international conventions it has ratified

**Goal
2**

Protect the Islamic identity of the Maldives and help to promote the values of Islam internationally

For over eight centuries, the Maldives has existed as a Muslim nation, and its national identity is intertwined with that of Islam. The Government is committed to preserving that identity and promoting the true Islamic values of respect and tolerance.

Strategy 1 Extend outreach to, and consolidate relations with the Islamic world

Strategy 2 Encourage and facilitate international efforts aimed at promoting the true Islamic values of respect and tolerance

Strategy 3 Increase the Maldives' active participation in promoting causes important to the Islamic world

**Goal
3**
**Increase the economic resilience of the
Maldives**

Increasing the country's economic resilience is an existential necessity for the Maldives. The business of the country's diplomacy would, therefore, be business; business that would create jobs for Maldivians in the Maldives and help to increase wealth and prosperity of the nation.

Strategy 1	Strengthen and re-orient the focus of Maldives missions towards promoting tourism, investment, and Maldivian exports.
Strategy 2	Conclude bilateral agreements for promoting tourism, investment, and Maldivian exports.
Strategy 3	Increase advocacy for stronger action on climate change including investments on renewable energy.
Strategy 4	Mobilise concessional financing for development projects in the Maldives.
Strategy 5	Expand opportunities for technical cooperation in strengthening State institutions, civil society and community based organizations.

**Goal
4**

Promote greater regional cooperation in South Asia

The Maldives believes that promoting greater regional cooperation in South Asia is the only viable means of promoting peace and stability in South Asia. As a founding member of SAARC, the Maldives would work towards consolidating the gains made in regional cooperation, and work towards embarking on new projects that would promote greater trust and mutual respect within the countries in the region.

Strategy 1 Strengthen the mechanisms for implementing the decisions made by SAARC leaders

Strategy 2 Bring greater focus to SAARC's activities

Strategy 3 Create conditions for greater trade, investment, and travel between the countries of SAARC

**Goal
5**
**Provide quality consular services for
Maldivians**

Maldivians travel overseas now more than ever before. The Government believes that Maldivians travelling and residing overseas deserve the consular protection guaranteed by international law. The Government also believes that easier people-to-people contact between Maldivians and other societies would facilitate greater understanding and mutual respect.

<i>Strategy 1</i>	Conclude visa waiver agreements with countries most frequently visited by Maldivians
<i>Strategy 2</i>	Strengthen the institutional capacity of the Ministry and Maldives missions overseas in providing consular services to Maldivians
<i>Strategy 3</i>	Disseminate information and increase awareness of the Maldivian public about the consular services

**Goal
6**

Promote efficiency and professionalism in the service

The Maldives is perhaps one of the few countries that still does not have a professional career foreign service. Without a professional cadre, the Maldives is unable to produce high calibre professional diplomats, and accumulate experience in the system. In order to effectively carry out the foreign policy objectives as envisioned in this plan, the foreign service must function as a professional body. The Government is committed to upgrade its legal framework, strengthen its institutional capacity as well as enhance its administrative, coordination and monitoring mechanisms.

Strategy 1 Establish a professional foreign service through the enactment of a Foreign Service Act

Strategy 2 Set up a Foreign Service Institute aimed at enhancing the capacity of the foreign service professionals

Strategy 3 Strengthen the administrative and coordination mechanisms within the headquarters and the Missions abroad

Strategy 4 Strengthen the monitoring mechanism of foreign engagement by the entire Government machinery
