FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

The Government of the Republic of India (hereinafter Government of India) and the Government of the Republic of Maldives (hereinafter Government of Maldives), hereinafter referred to as the 'Parties'

RECALLING their shared bonds of history, culture and common ethos;

DESIROUS of maintaining and deepening their unique relationship based on sovereign equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit;

INSPIRED by an abiding faith in and commitment to democracy, development and peaceful co-existence;

REITERATING their common objective of eradicating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease and promoting social justice and inclusive growth;

AFFIRMING their intention to promote comprehensive economic cooperation and develop efficient and enhanced connectivity between their countries:

DESIROUS of promoting cooperation in the areas of health, education, tourism, fisheries development, environment protection, new and renewable energy and economic cooperation;

CONVINCED that cooperation at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels will enable the two countries to realise their developmental aspirations, and contribute to peace, prosperity and security in the Indian Ocean Region and South Asia;

HAVE AGREED as under:

ARTICLE 1

To promote trade and investment and development of infrastructure in a manner that contributes to sustainable development in both countries, the Parties will work towards closer economic cooperation in sectors such as food security, fisheries development, tourism, transportation, information technology, new and renewable energy, communications and any other areas mutually agreed on. They will develop institutional arrangements to meet the essential commodities requirements of Maldives.

The Parties will undertake all measures needed to strengthen links in the banking and financial sectors, including by improving credit and insurance facilities and establishment of development finance institutions.

ARTICLE 2

To enhance connectivity between them by air and sea, in particular through shipping links and ferry services, the Parties will encourage the development of appropriate infrastructure, use of sea and air ports, and standardization of means of transport for bilateral as well as sub-regional use.

ARTICLE 3

To develop and implement programmes for environmental protection and responding to the challenges of climate change through adaptation, both Parties shall collaborate on projects of mutual interest to preserve their common eco-systems, address vulnerability of the Maldives and Indian Islands to Climate Change, strengthen coastal research and, as far as practicable, coordinate their response in international fora.

ARTICLE 4

To develop and streamline mechanisms for technical cooperation and exchange of advance information with respect to natural disasters. The Parties shall strengthen training and capacity building initiatives and cooperation between respective disaster

management authorities, with a view to upgrading their response mechanisms.

ARTICLE 5

To cooperate on issues of concern to each other arising from their unique geographical location which include piracy, maritime security, terrorism, organized crime, drugs and human trafficking, the Parties shall strengthen their cooperation to enhance security in the Indian Ocean Region through coordinated patrolling and aerial surveillance, exchange of information, development of effective legal framework and other measures mutually agreed upon. They will intensify their cooperation in the area of training and capacity building of police and security forces.

ARTICLE 6

To cooperate closely with each other on issues relating to their national interests, the Parties shall work together to create a peaceful environment conducive for inclusive economic growth and development. Neither Party shall allow the use of its territory for activities harmful to the national security and interest of the other.

ARTICLE 7

To promote scientific and educational cooperation between the two countries, the Parties shall cooperate by means of exchange of data, scientific knowledge, collaborative research, training, pilot projects and in any other manner as may be agreed between the two Parties.

ARTICLE 8

To promote cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, the Parties will promote greater exchanges between their parliaments, youth, sports, academic, cultural and intellectual bodies.

They will undertake measures to simplify rules and procedures for travel by citizens of both countries.

ARTICLE 9

For effective and smooth implementation of this Agreement, the Parties shall establish a Joint Consultative Commission that shall meet at least once a year.

ARTICLE 10

This Agreement shall come into force on the date of its signing by the two Parties and shall remain in force until terminated by mutual consent. The Agreement may be amended by mutual consent. Either Party may also at any time terminate this Agreement by giving six months advance written notice to the other Party indicating its intentions to terminate this Agreement. The termination shall take effect after six months of the date of such notice.

Actions taken or agreements reached pursuant to this Agreement shall not be affected by its expiry or termination.

Done in Male on the 12th day of November 2011, in two originals each in English and Hindi Languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

Manmohan Singh

Prime Minister
Government of the Republic of India

President
Government of the Republic of Maldives