

Maldives National 3R Day

16th August 2015

Malé 3R Declaration

“Resorts in Maldives for the Promotion of 3Rs and Resource Efficiency Towards Protection of Local Environment and Marine Ecosystem”

We, the representatives of tourist resorts of the Republic of Maldives, having met in Malé on 16 August 2015 at the Maldives National 3R Day being organized as an integral part of the Sixth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific held in Malé from 17 to 19 August 2015,

Recognizing the importance of protecting the biodiversity, freshwater resources, and sustainable use of seas and ocean and their resources as fundamental to the sustainable development of the island communities,

Recognizing the role of pristine marine and coastal environment as indispensable means and resources for sustainable tourism development, thereby economic security of Small Island Developing States,

Taking into account the large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters, and the increasing impacts of tourism activities to the fragile ecosystem and ecological assets (marine species, fish stock, coral reefs, mangroves, sea-grass bed, estuaries, coastal lagoons, and wetlands, among others) of Small Island Developing States,

Noting the critical challenges the small island countries face in terms of high population density, relative isolation, limited availability of land space, and lack of human, technical and financial resources that limit a range of options for climate mitigation, disaster reduction and environmentally sound management of emerging waste streams,

Underscoring the fact that plastic litter has become a critical concern in coastal and marine environment of small islands, and plastics in the marine environment progressively break down into micro-plastics (diameter < 5 mm) causing a range of impacts in the marine environment, including bio-accumulation of hydrophobic persistent organic pollutants (POPs) like PCBs, DDTs, HCHs and others from the plastics through ingestion or food-chain (fish to fish and fish to people),

Recognizing the multiple benefits of 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) through savings of resource, water, energy and cost, thereby contributing towards new circular economic opportunities and green jobs with more environmentally sustainable tourism,

Noting the recommendations outlined in the *Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, the *Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*, the Rio+20 Outcomes Document – *The Future We Want*; Outcome of the SIDS Conference (Apia, 2014) – *S.A.M.O.A. Pathway*; and the *Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013–2023)* adopted at the Fourth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific,

Noting further the calls made by the Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives at both Rio+20 and 2014 SIDS Conference for a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) affirming a common vision that promotes a whole of life cycle approach including resource efficiency and sustainable use of resources, extended producer responsibility (EPR) and the 3R concept in a number of key areas, including tourism industry,

Recognizing the significance of 3Rs and resource efficiency in post-2015 development agenda, and to that regard, the important role the private, business and industry sectors can play in mainstreaming 3R in their business operations and solutions, as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), to many sustainability challenges faced by the Small Island Developing States,

express our good-will intention to progressively practice and implement following 3R and resource efficiency measures, but not limited to, in all aspects of our tourism and related business operations to protect the precious marine environment and ecosystem towards the better health, economy and social well-being of the people of the Republic of Maldives.

1. develop and strengthen internal management system and policies towards efficient use of resources, water and energy, and promote usage of all forms of renewable energy, including waste to energy, in order to achieve waste prevention and minimization;
2. in conformity with pertinent regulations and standards governing environmental quality, health and safety, protection of sensitive areas, protection of coastal and marine environment and endangered species, siting, and land-use control, develop efficient and environmentally friendly waste collection, segregation and transportation to recycling facilities and disposal sites;
3. discourage use of any form of plastics in the resorts as a first priority; explore ways to utilize end-of-life plastics as a valuable resource and as an integral part of the waste reduction strategy contributing to circular economy;
4. consider investments for installing state-of-the-art sewage collection and treatment facilities to protect the coastal and marine environment and to prevent contamination of groundwater resources, which will in turn be of attraction to international tourists resulting in increased revenue generation;
5. promote use of compact detergents to reduce the nutrient level (BOD load) in wastewater as a by-product; promote wastewater reuse and recycling to achieve water efficiency and security;
6. take every preventive measure to protect coral reefs and other ecological assets from physical damage and pollution from toxic chemicals and hazardous substances;
7. work towards arresting all forms of soil erosion from the dynamic beaches with adequate soil conservation and vegetation measures; promote large scale composting from all organic and food wastes and use them for required vegetation measures, which will ultimately increase the resiliency and adaptability of the small islands against waves and natural disasters; and
8. explore every opportunity to tap various expertise, knowledge, technical know-how and best practices available in sustainable tourism sector by accessing various national and international sources or clearing house mechanisms such as the Global Sustainable Tourism Council, the Global Observatories on Sustainable Tourism of the World Tourism Organization, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism, SCP Clearing House of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP), Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific, and the other United Nations bodies.