

## **100 Days for Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

*30 December 2008, Male'*: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has forth a vision and strategic direction in line with new Government policy. The following is a summary of what is hoped to be achieved in the first 100 days.

### **The Goals**

- Reducing costs to meet budgetary constraints
- Re-orienting/restructuring foreign office to deliver MDP-Alliance Manifesto
- Mobilising development assistance/energising economic diplomacy
- Better protection and support for Maldivians abroad
- Focusing on commercial diplomacy
- Projecting the democratic government
- Enhanced public diplomacy (engagement with MPs, media, business community, non-resident Maldivians)

### **The Activities**

#### **1. Restructuring Machinery: Ministry, Missions, and Consulates**

- a) Recall ambassadors and accredit new ones in New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur and U.K and initiate closing down process of the missions in Singapore, Dhaka and Washington
- b) Draw up plan for staff re-assignments and re-posting
- c) Implement cost-cutting measures in all Missions
- d) Upgrade the Mission in Brussels to strengthen relations with EU institutions
- e) Accredit a non-resident Ambassador to Paris (strengthen ties with OECD, Paris Club and UNESCO) and Bonn
- f) Accredit Ambassadors to Belgium and Luxemburg
- g) Re-organise and re-tool the Ministry to focus on economic and commercial diplomacy and consular services/public affairs
- h) Re-mandate the missions to focus on economic/commercial diplomacy and consular services/public affairs
- i) Re-mandate/appoint honorary consuls to focus on economic and commercial diplomacy
- j) Recruit new staff to fill existing vacancies
- k) Appoint Political Advisor, Spokesperson, Political Assistant and Political Secretary
- l) Carry out a performance audit and generate proposals for improvement

#### **2. Aid mobilisation- Securing the Democracy Pledge**

- a) Appeal letter to all donors including donor briefings in New Delhi and Colombo

- b) Budget support appeal letters to Indian Government, Japanese Government, Chinese Government, Libyan Government, Saudi Government, Kuwait Government, EU and USA, etc
- c) Visits to New Delhi, Tokyo, Beijing, London, Brussels, Doha, Tripoli, Riyadh, Bonn, Abu Dhabi
- d) Initiate negotiations with KFAD, SF, ADB, IDB, EDB, MCA, IBRD, IMF
- e) Partnership Forum in Male in collaboration with UN by end of February
- f) Initiate establishing parliamentary support groups in key countries, eg. Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Canada, and US

### **3. Economic and Commercial Diplomacy (trade, investment and visas)**

- b) Initiate fresh negotiations for visa concessions with Thailand, Indonesia, China and UAE
- c) Review and seek greater visa facilitation arrangements with UK, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia
- d) Appointment of an honorary consul in Mumbai
- e) Initiate dialogue with EU on market access after graduation
- f) Initiate dialogue with UN on retaining LDC benefits and to differ LDC graduation
- g) Establish regular consultation mechanism with MNCCI, MATI and MACI
- h) Establish co-ordination mechanism with Trade Ministry, MTB and Foreign Ministry
- i) Activate Indo-Maldives Joint Commission, Indo-Maldives Trade and Investment Sub-group

### **4. Public Diplomacy (Protocol , Consular assistance, media visits, cultural fairs, NGO networks, briefing platforms)**

- a) Make the ceremony for presentation of credentials more business-like
- b) Publish consular assistance manual
- c) Set up media interviews on the new dispensation
- d) Participate in democracy-building conferences
- e) Develop mechanism for engagement with parliamentarians
- f) Develop mechanism for co-operation with local NGOs
- g) Link up with peace-building initiatives and peace research centres
- h) Organise public forums on the new foreign policy

### **5. Normative Framework (Conventions, treaties, declarations and resolutions)**

- a) Active follow up on the Law of the Sea and related matters
- b) Review Migrant Workers convention
- c) Accede to the Rome Statute on the Criminal Court

- d) Link up with Anti- Corruption initiatives at UN and World Bank
- e) Review membership of organisations and contributions
- f) Participation in security-related frameworks such as on marine pollution, transport of hazardous wastes, protection of resources, especially fish stocks.
- g) Review participation in Indian Ocean Commission, ACP Grouping and Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

**6. Consult with MPs/ Civil Service Commission on drafting a Foreign Service Bill.**

**7. Auditing of Missions and the Ministry**

**The Outputs**

1. Political Ambassadors are replaced
2. Staffing numbers and costs are reduced
3. Number of missions is reduced
4. Nucleus of a Foreign Service Cadre is set up and bill drafted
5. Aid monies are increased
6. New Markets are opened
7. New resources are accessed
8. International profile for new leadership and its policies
9. Greater public awareness of foreign affairs
10. Improved consular arrangements and services
11. Easier visa and trade facilitation
12. Greater public participation in policy-making
13. Higher international profile for the Maldives
14. Enhanced lobbying capacity in key capitals
15. Greater transparency

**ENDS.**