

For your kind attention:

Maldives urges World Bank to listen to the voices of the vulnerable on climate change

05 Mar 08, Washington: The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms Dunya Maumoon, has asked the international community to 'listen to the voices of the vulnerable' when dealing with global warming. Speaking at the World Bank conference on the Social Dimension of Climate Change in Washington D.C, the Deputy Minister said the immediate effects of climate change threaten small island states like the Maldives, but the far-reaching impacts will reach into every community and neighborhood on the planet.

In a strongly worded address, the Deputy Minister urged the international community to resist modest targets that would sacrifice the homes, jobs and lives of the most vulnerable communities on the planet. She appealed to the delegates attended the conference to urgently realize the devastating impacts of global climate change on small island states like the Maldives, and henceforth to act upon it with urgency and ambition.

In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that global warming is real, accelerating, and caused primarily by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels. The Maldives is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of global warming associated with climate change. In recent years, coastal erosion and storm surges have caused considerable flooding and damage to property and lives of people.

The World Bank Social Dimension of Climate Change conference gathered experts from around the globe to discuss the implications for human well-being, human agency, social organization and social justice arising from global warming.

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