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Maldives continues to fall in the Corruption Perceptions Index

The 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) was released today by Transparency International and highlights the global situation of corruption during last year. The CPI annually scores and ranks countries by their perceived level of public sector corruption according to surveys and expert assessments, using a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

This year the Maldives, with a low score of 31, is ranked 124 out of 180 countries. This is the third consecutive year that the Maldives is included among the two-third of countries to score below 50. In the 2016 and 2017 index, the Maldives had a score and country ranking of 36 and 95, and 33 and 112, respectively.

The CPI is calculated using a composite assessment consisting of a minimum of three separate sources. In the 2018 index, the Maldives' score was drawn from three international sources: World Bank CPIA, Global Insight Country Risk Ratings, and Varieties of Democracy Project.

This year's index indicates that the continued failure of countries to curb corruption and ensure integrity is contributing to a crisis of democracy across the world. Cross analysis with global democracy data reveals that countries with higher rates of corruption also have weaker democratic institutions and political rights.

The 2018 CPI score for the Maldives is a stark reminder of the eroding democratic institutions and the unchecked level of grand corruption. Over the past five years, the fundamental freedoms and rights in Maldives has gradually deteriorated, paving a smooth path for unchecked corruption and abuse of power. The freedom of expression and the freedom of media, coupled with weak and politically compromised institutions including the Parliament and the Judiciary, has allowed for corruption to flourish.

In order to ensure a consistent fight against corruption and to strengthen the democratic space to counter the spread of corruption, Transparency Maldives echoes the call by Transparency International and recommends that the State:

- Ensure the strengthening of institutions responsible for maintaining checks and balances over political power, and ensure their ability to operate without intimidation;
- Close the implementation gap between anti-corruption legislation, practice and enforcement;
- Support civil society organisations which enhance political engagement and public oversight over government spending;
- Support a free and independent media, and ensure the safety of journalists and their ability to work without intimidation or harassment.

ENDS

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