

**AGREEMENT ON THE FACILITATION OF VISA ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA  
AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Maldives, hereinafter referred to as the Contracting Parties, with the desire to further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries and to facilitate visits by nationals of the two countries who are holders of passports other than diplomatic and official passports to each other's country have agreed to the following:

**ARTICLE 1**

Through this Agreement, both the Contracting Parties agree to issue gratis visa in all categories except the Employment Visa to the nationals of the other Contracting Party on reciprocity basis. Either of the Contracting Parties may also, on their own, exempt the nationals of the other Contracting Party from payment of visa fee on Employment Visa.

**ARTICLE 2**

*Tourist Visa*

2.1 Both the Contracting Parties agree to exempt nationals of the other Contracting Party from the requirement of a visa, in respect of visits or stays made for the purposes of tourism, that does not exceed a period of ninety (90) days provided that they are in possession of a valid passport/travel document and evidence of sufficient funds to support their stay, subject to the application of the relevant laws and regulations of the Contracting Party granting such visa free entry. The period of 90 days shall include any prior period of stay of such foreign nationals during a period of 6 months immediately preceding the date of his/her entry into the other Contracting Party.

2.2 While a National of either Contracting Party is within the territory of the other Contracting Party by reason of being granted a visa free entry for tourism purpose





as provided herein, and falls ill, rendering him/her unfit to travel to his/her home country and requiring immediate medical treatment, beyond the period stipulated in Article 2.1, the competent authority of the Contracting Party, shall grant him/her a Medical Visa, on production of a medical certificate from the government or a hospital recognized by government of that Contracting Party. A national who was accompanying the person granted a Medical Visa as provided herein, and who was within the territory of that Contracting Party by reason of being granted visa free entrance for tourism purpose in a similar manner to the person granted a Medical Visa, may be granted a Medical Attendant Visa, by that Contracting Party, for the purpose of attending to the relevant requirements of the person granted such Medical Visa, subject to a maximum number of 2 medical attendants for each principal holder of Medical Visa.

2.3 Tourist visa may also be granted by the respective Missions/Competent Authority of the Contracting Parties as per their extant rules and regulations.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### Medical Visa

3.1 Both the Contracting Parties agree to exempt nationals of the other Contracting Party from the requirement of a visa, in respect of visits or stays made for the purposes of medical treatment, that does not exceed a period of ninety (90) days provided that they are in possession of a valid passport/travel document, relevant medical documents and evidence of sufficient funds to support their stay, subject to the application of the relevant laws and regulations of the Contracting Party granting such visa free entry for medical purpose.

3.2 Medical visa can also be granted by the respective Missions/Competent Authority of the Contracting Parties for a period of 6 months and in deserving cases up to 1 year. Two medical attendants may be allowed on medical attendant visa co-terminus with the Medical Visa of the Principal visa holder. Medical Visa can be further





extended in the territory of the other Contracting Party as per its extant rules and regulations.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

##### *Business visa*

4.1 Both the Contracting Parties agree to exempt nationals of the other Contracting Party from the requirement of a visa, in respect of visits or stays made for the purpose of concluding business agreements and/or contracts or other business transactions or to conduct business negotiations with their counterparts that does not exceed a period of ninety (90) days provided that they are in possession of a valid passport/travel document and evidence of sufficient funds to support their stay, subject to the application of the relevant laws and regulations of the Contracting Party granting such visa free entry.

4.2 Both the Contracting Parties also agree to grant multiple entry non-resident business visa for up to 5 years for nationals of the other Contracting Party travelling to their territory for the purpose of the business transactions. Each stay on a business visa should not be more than 90 days, with the possibility of extension for a further 90 days. For stays more than 180 days in a calendar year, the visitor on a business visa should get himself/herself registered or obtain the necessary approval from the relevant authority, within two weeks after the expiry of 180 days of arrival in the other Contracting Party.

#### **ARTICLE 5**

The aggregate visa free period as stipulated in Articles 2, 3 and 4, for tourism, medical or business purpose shall not exceed a total of 90 days in a period of 6 months immediately preceding the date of his/her entry into the other Contracting Party.

#### **ARTICLE 6**

##### *Student Visa*

6.1 Both the Contracting Parties agree to grant multiple entry student visa to students from the other Contracting Party, enrolled in fulltime study programs at





each other's government-recognized educational institutions, for the duration of academic course of study or a maximum period of five years, whichever is less.

6.2 Both Contracting Parties agree to grant appropriate multiple entry visas to either or both parents / legal guardians (in the absence of parents) of a student less than 18 years of age for a duration co-terminus with the student's visa.

6.3 Both the Contracting Parties agree to grant appropriate multiple entry visa to the minor children/spouse/parents of the nationals on student visa for higher education and research visa of a duration co-terminus with the principal visa holder.

6.4 Both the Contracting Parties agree to grant appropriate visa for the minor children and/or aged parents of the parents/ legal guardians holding appropriate visa accompanying the students on a case to case basis, as decided by the Mission/Competent Authority of the other Contracting Party. Holders of such visas shall not engage in any business/employment activity in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

6.5 The visas as stipulated in this Article shall require the production of evidence of sufficient funds to support the stay of the applicant, to be examined by the mission/competent authority of the other Contracting Party.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### *Employment visa*

7.1 Both the Contracting Parties agree to grant multiple entry Employment Visa for nationals of the other Contracting Party traveling to their territory for the purpose of employment for the duration of contract or three years, whichever is less. Such multiple entry visas shall be granted to the nationals of the other Contracting Party upon completion of all necessary procedures required, including the payment of visa fees. The visa fee shall be paid by the employer in the territory of the other Contracting Party and the employee shall have no responsibility for payment of visa fee to the authorities concerned. The Contracting Parties agree to complete the



processing and issuance of work permit as applicable within 15 days of submission of application.

7.2 In addition to the above, Contracting Parties agree to grant appropriate multiple entry visas to the dependents (spouse, minor children and aged parents of the principal visa holder and his/her spouse) of Nationals, who have been granted Employment Visa by the Contracting Party, provided the type and nature of employment undertaken under the terms of such Employment Visa, qualifies as skilled or professional employment, according to the Laws, Regulations or Policies in effect from time to time in the territory of that Contracting Party.

#### **ARTICLE 8**

##### *Conference Visa*

Both the Contracting Parties agree to issue an appropriate visa valid for up to 30 days for individuals who wish to attend a conference/seminar/workshop in the other Contracting Party as per the extant rules and regulations of the host country.

#### **ARTICLE 9**

9.1 The Contracting Parties agree to issue the visas as specified in this Agreement or equivalent visas that provide the same benefits under their national laws.

9.2 The Contracting Parties agree that the visitors travelling for any other purpose not covered in Articles 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 of this Agreement, shall be required to obtain an appropriate visa from the respective mission/competent authority of the other Contracting Party.

#### **ARTICLE 10**

Each Contracting Party reserves the right to refuse the entry into or shorten the stay in its territory of any citizen of the other Contracting Party, whom it may consider undesirable.





#### **ARTICLE 11**

Each Contracting Party reserves the right, for reasons of security, public order or public health, to suspend temporarily, either in whole or in part, the implementation of this agreement, which shall take effect immediately after notification has been given to the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels. The suspension shall not affect the rights of nationals who have already entered the territory of the other Contracting Party.

#### **ARTICLE 12**

The duration of the passports of nationals of either Party shall be valid for at least 6 months on the date of entry into the territory of the other Contracting Party.

#### **ARTICLE 13**

13.1 For the purpose of this Agreement, each Contracting Party shall transmit to the other, through diplomatic channels, specimens of its respective passports, including a detailed description of such documents currently used, at least 30 days before the entry into force of this Agreement.

13.2 Each Contracting Party shall also transmit to the other through diplomatic channels, specimen of its new or modified passports, including a detailed description of such documents, at least 30 days before they are brought into force.

#### **ARTICLE 14**

Any difference or dispute arising out of the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement shall be settled amicably by consultation or negotiation between the Contracting Parties without reference to any third Party.

#### **ARTICLE 15**

Entry into force of this Agreement shall have the effect of nullifying all prior visa arrangements reached between the two Parties.



#### **ARTICLE 16**

This Agreement may be amended at any time and any such amendment shall be mutually agreed upon by the Contracting Parties through the exchange of diplomatic notes through diplomatic channels. Any amendment will enter into force on a date to be mutually agreed upon by the Contracting Parties.

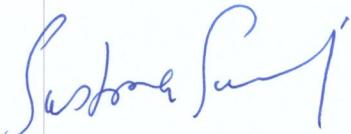
#### **ARTICLE 17**

This Agreement shall enter into force on a date to be mutually agreed upon by the Contracting Parties, which shall be notified through the exchange of diplomatic notes. This Agreement shall remain in force for an indefinite period and may be terminated by either Contracting Party by a written notification through diplomatic channels, which shall enter into force 90 days after the date of such notification. The termination shall not affect the rights of nationals who have already entered the territory of the other Contracting Party.

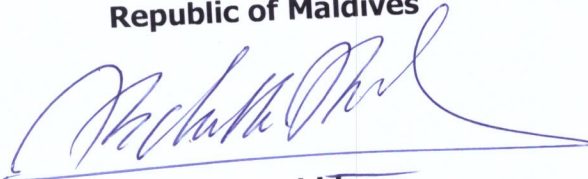
In witness whereof, the undersigned being duly authorized by their respective governments, have signed the present agreement.

Done at New Delhi on this 17th day of December in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen in two originals; in Hindi and in English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In the event of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**For the Government of the  
Republic of India**

  
**Sushma Swaraj**  
**External Affairs Minister**

**For the Government of the  
Republic of Maldives**

  
**Abdulla Shahid**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs**