

**HE MR MAUMOON ABDUL GAYOOM**  
FORMER PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

---

Maumoon Abdul Gayoom served, from 1978 to 2008, as the President of the Maldives. During his tenure in office, the Maldives experienced a period of unprecedented economic, social, and political development that took the country from being among the five poorest in the world to being the most affluent in South Asia. President Gayoom attained global acclaim for his leadership role, spanning over 21 years, in alerting the world to the impending dangers of global warming and sea-level rise, with special attention to Small Island Development States such as the Maldives. Over the past few years, he has also focused his attention in calling for the global recognition of a safe environment as a fundamental human right. His efforts on the environmental front have earned him the Global 500 Roll of Honour, the DRV Award of Germany, the Lega Navale Award of Italy, and the Sustainable Development Leadership Award at last year's Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

