

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

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PREAMBLE

The Government of the People's Republic of China ("China") and the Government of the Republic of Maldives ("Maldives"), hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Parties":

INSPIRED by their longstanding friendship and growing economic and trade relationship;

DESIRING to strengthen their cooperation on jointly building the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road through fostering closer economic and trade ties between the Parties;

RECOGNIZING that the strengthening of their economic partnership through a free trade agreement, which removes barriers to the trade in goods, trade in services and investment flows, will produce mutual benefits for the Parties, including creation of new employment opportunities and improvement of the general welfare of the Parties;

BUILDING on their rights, obligations and undertakings under the *Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization* and other multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements and arrangements;

UPHOLDING the rights of their governments to regulate in order to meet national policy objectives, and to preserve their flexibility to safeguard public welfare; and

RESOLVED to create an expanded market for goods and services in their territories through establishing clear rules governing their trade which will ensure a predictable, transparent and consistent commercial framework for business operations;

HAVE AGREED as follows: