

# [Press Releases: Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With Maldives Foreign Minister Abduġa Shahid](#)

Readout  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
February 20, 2019

---

The below is attributable to Deputy Spokesperson Robert Palladino:□

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo welcomed Maldivian Foreign Minister Abduġa Shahid to Washington today. They discussed their common interest in deepening bilateral ties between the United States and Maldives, and their shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Foreign Minister Shahid underscored the importance of his government's reform efforts to the vitality of Maldives' democracy and future prosperity. Secretary Pompeo expressed strong support for the U.S.-Maldives partnership, announcing the intent of the State Department to work with Congress to provide \$9.75 million in additional assistance for Maldives. He hailed the signing of a memorandum of understanding to enhance aviation security and an intent by USAID to facilitate sustained collaboration with Maldives. The Secretary also noted that the United States is cooperating with Maldives to share best practices in the areas of debt strategy, public financial management, and combatting financial crimes. The Secretary welcomed the Government of Maldives' commitment to judicial reform, transparency, and rule of law.

*The Office of Website Management, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other Internet sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or privacy policies contained therein.*