



News

# Environment Minister calls for reform of SACEP

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Minister for Climate Change, Environment, and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim has emphasised the need to update and strengthen the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), the primary organisation advocating for environmental issues in South Asia. He made the remarks during the closing ceremony of the 16th SACEP Governing Council meeting held in Bhutan.

Minister Thoriq Ibrahim highlighted the meeting's significance in enhancing cooperation among South Asian countries to address the challenges posed by climate change. He underscored the urgency for small island nations like the Maldives to prepare and take immediate action against climate threats, including global warming, sea level rise, air and water pollution, and land erosion.

Calling for member countries to engage in collaborative dialogue, Minister Thoriq shared the Maldivian government's initiatives aimed at mitigating these challenges. He specifically mentioned President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's commitment to planting five million trees across the Maldives.

Additionally, Minister Thoriq urged SACEP member states to reform and strengthen the organization's regulations to better address evolving regional environmental concerns. "SACEP, as a regional environmental organisation, must adapt to meet the changing needs of member countries. It is crucial to revise and enhance its framework so that it can effectively advocate and engage on environmental issues at international forums," he stated.

Established in 1987, the SACEP meetings serve as pivotal platforms for environmental discussions involving member countries and other Commonwealth agencies. This year marked the 16th convening of SACEP, highlighting its ongoing role in fostering regional cooperation on environmental sustainability.

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