

Sri Lanka Statement to Session 12 at HLPF (14th July 2016):

National mechanisms for monitoring progress and reporting on implementation for the achievement of SDGs

Uchita de Zoysa (Chief Negotiator for Sri Lanka to HLPF 2016 / Sustainable Development Advisor of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife Sri Lanka)

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

1. Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require a new policy, regulatory and institutional framework supported by sustainable development strategies, standards, guidelines backed by a reliable and commonly accessible information at national levels.
2. A new Sustainable Development Act in Sri Lanka which is expected to be tabled in parliament in the coming weeks will mandate all ministries, provincial councils and public sector agencies to follow a set of sustainable development standards, guidelines and indicators.
3. Last year a Composite Index called the Sustainability Compliance Standards Framework was formulated by a group of experts in Sri Lanka to conduct a preliminary assessment of one of the largest development investment programmes in the country called the Western Region Megapolis Planning Project.
4. the Sustainability Compliance Standards Framework is able to assess the **strategic commitment to sustainable development of a project** through a set of 40 performance standards and indicators on Economic, Environmental, Social Sustainability and **Good Governance** standards.
5. This composite index is designed to provide guidance on how to **identify, avoid, mitigate, and manage risks and impacts** when planning and implementing large development projects in a sustainable way.
6. It includes both tangible and intangible considerations that a development intervention should integrate at the planning stage to avoid mid & post implementation fire-fighting and patch-work that is seen so frequently.
7. The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, as the focal agency in the country for SD, has adopted this Sustainability Compliance Standards Framework towards formulating the required sustainable development standards, guidelines and indicators for all public sector organizations in the country to adopt in the future.
8. We are looking for such experiences in other countries to exchange expertise and collaborate to advance the transformation at all levels; local, national, regional and international.

Thank you!