

**18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission of Sustainable Development**  
**Statement made by the Delegation of Sri Lanka**  
**at the Thematic Discussion on Waste Management**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me congratulate you for your Chairmanship of this Session. I thank the panelists for their elaborated presentations. My delegation affiliates itself with the Statement made by Algeria on behalf of the G-77 & China.

In Sri Lanka, the full responsibility for Solid Waste Management rests on Local Authorities, under the Local Authority Act. However after realizing the negative impacts of lacking a comprehensive national strategy in waste management, the Cabinet of Ministers in 2008 approved the implementation of the National Policy on Solid Waste Management.

The National Policy is based on the “polluter pays” principle to ensure integrated, economically feasible and environmentally sound waste management at all administrative levels. The policy envisages environmental accountability and social responsibility of all waste generators, waste managers and service providers. It outlines close involvement of individual citizens and institutions in integrated and environmentally sound solid waste management practices. The policy also assures maximum resource recovery with a view to minimize waste disposal and adverse environmental impacts to ensure well being of the people, as well as ecosystems. The policy emphasizes the need for reducing consumption, promoting recycle and re-using waste material.

The integrated national solid waste management program was launched to translate this National Policy into actions. Accordingly, a three year initial Action Plan was implemented to achieve the short term strategic goals. To ensure effective and integrated implementation, 'the National Platform for Solid Waste Management' was established as an apex body, which provides overall guidance, coordination, financial and technical resource mobilization. This project was designed to solve country's solid waste problems within 5 years, by adhering to reduction of waste generation by reuse, recycling and resource recovery to the maximum, followed by appropriate treatment, and finally the disposal of residual waste in an environmentally sound manner.

The financial provisions for this project were allocated from the national budget of the General Treasury and the revenues generated from the 'Environment Conservation Levy' which was introduced in 2008 Budget.

We encourage international partnerships for knowledge sharing and capacity building in this field.

Thank you for your attention.