

Sri Lanka Statement to HLPF Session 13 on 13th July 2017 (15.00-16.30)

Statement by: Uchita de Zoysa (Chief Negotiator for Sri Lanka to HLPF / Advisor to the Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife Sri Lanka)

Session 13: Review of implementation SDGs and thematic review (SDG 17: Investing in and financing for SDGs)

Mr Moderator,

1. On the 2nd of January, H.E. the President of Sri Lanka proclaimed that we have embarked on a sustainable era and declared 2017 as the year for eradicating poverty in our pursuit of prosperity.
2. This is a direct and early call for investing in the sustainable development agenda and towards ensuring sustainable futures for all our citizens.
3. While we are fully committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, one of the greatest challenges facing us like many countries is the lack of a clear global financing mechanism for implementing the SDGs as ambitious pathways to transformation by 2030.
4. Implementing the SDGs in all its complexities within an inequitable global financial and trading system, asking national governments to figure out innovative financing strategies may not be an adequate proposition for a global transformation.
5. Governments are eternally pressed to balance investment between current and future prosperity of their nations, reflected variably in annual budgets.
6. Yet, the challenge at HLPF is to collectively inspire all nations to transcend beyond the current challenges and foresight into the future, knowing well that transformation is possible only if investment for the future is made now.
7. HLPF must comprehend that a new and transformative agenda cannot be serviced by an old and ordinary financial system.
8. The world needs a new Financial Architecture, courageous enough to reflect all the dynamics associated with a true and sincere transformation.

Thank you!