

Sri Lanka Statement to HLPF Session 15 on 14th July 2017 (09.00-13.00)

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

Session 15: ***Leveraging interlinkages for effective implementation of SDGs***

Madam Moderator,

1. During the past year, in Sri Lanka we have been planning the implementation of the 169 SDG Targets with an objective of Comprehending its Complexity towards finding Coherence & Convergence in our policies, strategies, processes and programmes.
2. We have now conducted hundreds of SDG related inter and intra linkage mapping and systems modelling between policies, institutions, programmes and commitments to other related international agreements to provide the requisite political realization of the deep policy and institutional fragmentation and contradictions that leads to lack of vital coherence in achieving prosperity.
3. When we look back and not limiting to Sri Lanka, the monitoring, evaluation and reporting for the Millennium Development Goals during those past 15 years had been conducted using such fragmented policy and institutional frameworks, and trying to adopt incremental approaches from MDGs will not adequately induce a real transformation.
4. While the past linear development objectives may have been possible to be measured with data fed quantitative indicators in the past for mere reporting purposes, measuring prosperity in a transformative process will require far greater comprehension on non-quantitative indicators and dynamic measurements able to assess intangible influences having greater impact on an actual transformation.
5. Therefore, the current overdrive for data must become a more holistic process so it does not end up in building an industry feeding mechanical information devoid from emotions and realities of the world, and derails the deeper objectives of wellbeing, happiness, prosperity, mindfulness, etc. necessary for a sincere transformation.
6. It's a hard and painful process, but in Sri Lanka we are laboring to be as honest towards the objectives of the agreed transformation, and would appreciate if HLPF facilitates resolute deliberations leading to necessary global systemic reforms, thus providing hope to countries like ours to be optimistic of a sustainable era we have earnestly embarked on.
7. Finally, HLPF must be resolute that an old and ordinary financial system cannot facilitate a transformative agenda, and a new Financial Architecture would mean that along with our national budgeting mechanisms, the international development assistance system and the international monetary and trading system must be remodeled to complement the transformation envisioned in the 2030 agenda.

Thank you!