



**National Statement of Sri Lanka at the General Debate of the  
High-level Segment of ECOSOC including the Ministerial Meeting of the  
High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development  
by Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera  
Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife**

**18<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka is happy to once again extend its support to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January this year, His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka, Maithripala Sirisena, declared that Sri Lanka has embarked on a 'Sustainable Era' and declared 2017 as the 'Year for Poverty Eradication'. Sri Lanka believes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and equally across the nation is a prerequisite for a transformation. In our pursuit of becoming a high-income country, Sri Lanka's economic prosperity is being planned in accordance with our commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Under the guidance of the Prime Minister Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, a knowledge based Social Market Economy built on social justice principles is being fostered with a focus on the availability of global opportunities for education, strengthening of the health system, and the ability to ensure mobility successfully. To unlock the value of our ocean's resources sustainably, a Blue-Green Strategy has been put in place, and to ensure a healthy nation, a programme for a country free of poisonous substances is being implemented.

A National Sustainable Development Act in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goals has been tabled in Parliament of Sri Lanka to establish a Sustainable Development Council that will provide leadership to formulate a National Policy and

Strategy on Sustainable Development and monitor the implementation of the same. A Parliamentary Select Committee has also been established to monitor the progress of the implementation of SDGs.

In our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in 2015 Sri Lanka established a cabinet Ministry for Sustainable Development to steer the planning of the implementation of SDGs. Under the overarching theme of “Planning for an Inclusive Transformation” a ‘National SDG Action Plan’ was formulated by my Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife last year. By the end of this year, the “National SDG Roadmap” will be formulated along with a National Monitoring, Review, Reporting and Follow-up Mechanism for SDGs. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, we have also initiated “Regional Sustainability Plans” and already commenced a programme to establish “Sustainable Villages”.

We have now conducted an inter and intra linkage mapping between and amongst the 169 targets and the 400 plus statutory institutions under the ministries and have identified their roles and responsibilities of implementing the SDGs. By the end of the year, we are very hopeful of bringing out a convergent long-term sustainability vision, a national policy and strategy, a roadmap on implementing the SDGs, a monitoring-evaluation-reporting mechanism defined by a national indicator and statistical framework, and decentralized implementation of sustainability plans through a mind change of our nation. Our strategy is to implement the SDGs in three phases; 2017 to 2020, 2020 to 2025, and 2025 to 2030.

With full readiness for transformation to sustainable development, we believe Sri Lanka would be in an ideal position to present its Voluntary National Review at the High Level Political Forum next year.

Finally, I am also happy to announce that in recognition of our work in preservation of wildlife and marine ecosystems, Sri Lanka has been awarded to host the next CITIES Conference in Sri Lanka, and we look forward to welcoming all countries and stakeholders in the year 2019 to our beautiful country.

Thank you, Mr. President.