

Annual 2018



United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

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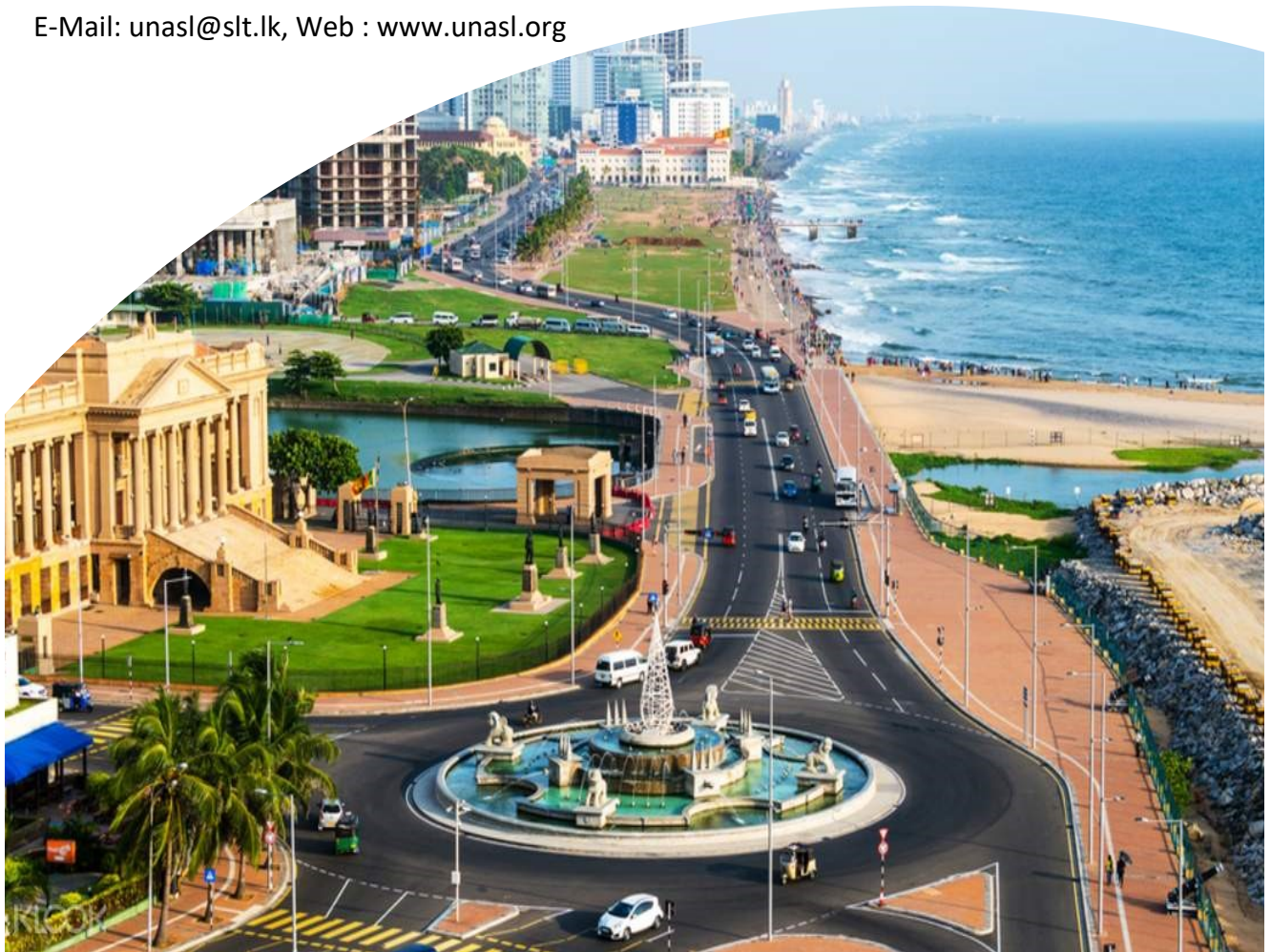
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**Strengthening
Resilience**



H. E. António Guterres
The Secretary General
Address to 73rd Session of the General Assembly
25th September 2018



Your Excellency Madam President of the General Assembly,
 Distinguished Heads of State and Government.
 Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen,
 Our world is suffering from a bad case of “Trust Deficit Disorder”. People are feeling troubled and insecure. Trust is at a breaking point. Trust in national institutions. Trust among states. Trust in the rules-based global order. Within countries, people are losing faith in political establishments, polarization is on the rise and populism is on the march.

Among countries, cooperation is less certain and more difficult. Divisions in our Security Council are stark. Trust in global governance is also fragile, as 21st-century challenges outpace 20th-century institutions and mindsets. We have never had a true system of global governance, much less a fully democratic one. Still, across many decades, we established solid foundations for international cooperation. We came together as United Nations to build institutions, norms and rules to advance our shared interests. We raised standards of living for millions. We forged peace in troubled lands and – indeed – we avoided a third world war. But none of this can be taken for granted. Today, world order is increasingly chaotic. Power relations are less clear. Universal values are being eroded. Democratic principles are under siege, and the rule of law is being undermined. Impunity is on the rise, as leaders and states push the boundaries, both at home and in the international arena. We face a set of paradoxes. The world is more connected, yet societies are becoming more fragmented. Challenges are growing outward, while many people are turning inward. Multilateralism is under fire precisely when we need it most.

So, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is true that we are moving in the direction of a multipolar world. But multi polarity will not, in itself, guarantee peace or solve global problems. A century ago, Europe was multipolar. A balance of power was deemed sufficient to keep rivals in check. It was not. Without strong multilateral frameworks for European-wide cooperation and problem-solving, the result was a grievous world war. Today, with shifts in the balance of power, the risk of confrontation may increase. In assessing the Peloponnesian War in ancient Greece, Thucydides said, and I quote, “It was the rise of Athens and the fear that this instilled in Sparta that made war inevitable.” This is what the political scientist Graham Allison calls the “Thucydides Trap”. But in his book “Destined for War”, and reviewing many examples of rivalry in the past, he concluded that conflict is never inevitable. Indeed, with leadership committed to strategic cooperation and to managing competing interests, we can avoid war and steer the world onto a safer path. Individual leaders have the duty to advance the well-being of their people. But it runs deeper. Together, as guardians of the common good, we also have a duty to promote and support a reformed, reinvigorated and strengthened multilateral system. We need commitment to a rules-based order, with the United Nations at its centre and with the different institutions and treaties that bring the Charter to life. And we need to show the added value of international cooperation by delivering peace, defending human rights and driving economic and social progress for women and men everywhere. That is why I am so committed to reform, and to making the United Nations more effective in responding to the needs and aspirations of “we the peoples”. In the face of massive, existential threats to people and planet --

but equally at a time of compelling opportunities for shared prosperity -- there is no way forward but collective, common-sense action for the common good. This is how we can rebuild trust.

Excellencies,

In my address last year, I highlighted seven challenges. One year on, they remain sadly unresolved. There is outrage at our inability to end the wars in Syria, Yemen and elsewhere. The Rohingya people remain exiled, traumatized and in misery, still yearning for safety and justice. Palestinians and Israelis are still locked in endless conflict, with the two-state solution more and more distant. The threat of terror looms, fed by the root causes of radicalization and violent extremism. And terrorism is ever more interlinked with international organized crime and the trafficking of people, drugs, arms and corruption. The nuclear peril has not eased, with non-proliferation at serious risk. Nuclear-armed States are modernizing their arsenals. A new arms race could be triggered, and the threshold for their use lowered. We have seen outrageous uses of chemical weapons, in full impunity despite their ban, and protections against dangerous biological weapons are weak. Inequality is undermining faith in the social contract and is a clear obstacle to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Tensions over trade are on the rise. Migrants and refugees continue to face discrimination and demagoguery in the context of clearly insufficient international cooperation. And in this year marking the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the human rights agenda is losing ground and authoritarianism is on the rise. As the politics of pessimism spreads, we must guard against self-fulfilling prophecies. Those who see their neighbors as dangerous may cause a threat where there was none. Those who close their borders to regular migration only fuel the work of traffickers. And those who ignore human rights in combatting terrorism tend to breed the very extremism they are trying to end. It is our common duty to reverse these trends and resolve these challenges. We need to move ahead based on facts, not fear — on reason, not illusion. Prevention must be at the centre of all we do. This session of the General Assembly is a real opportunity for progress. To mention just one example, I welcome the strong show of support for my Action for Peacekeeping Initiative – which has been endorsed by 148 states and organizations. It aims to help our missions succeed in today’s protracted and volatile contexts but today I want to concentrate on two epochal challenges which, since last year, have taken on surpassing urgency: climate change and the new risks associated with advances in technology. Let me take them each in turn.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, the direct existential threat of climate change. We have reached a pivotal moment. If we do not change course in the next two years, we risk runaway climate change. Climate change is moving faster than we are – and its speed has provoked a sonic boom SOS across our world. According to the World Meteorological Organization, the past two decades included 18 of the warmest years since record-keeping began in 1850. This year, for the first time, thick permanent sea ice north of Greenland began to break up. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is the highest in 3 million years – and rising. Making matters worse, we — as a community of world leaders — are not doing enough. We must listen to the earth’s best scientists. We must see what is happening before our eyes. We need greater ambition and a greater sense of urgency.

We must guarantee the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It has immense potential to set us on the right course, but its targets -- which represent the bare minimum to avoid the worst impacts of climate change -- are far from being met. I am concerned that recent negotiations in Bangkok towards implementation guidelines ended without sufficient progress. The next Conference of Parties, COP24 in Poland in December, will be a key moment. It must be a success. As I said recently, we cannot allow Katowice to remind us of the divisions among Member States that paralyzed Copenhagen. The good news is: technology is on our side. Clean energy is more affordable and competitive than ever. If we pursue the right path, climate action could add \$26 trillion to the global economy by 2030. Green

economy policies could create 24 million new jobs. More and more companies and investors are finding that green business is good business. Far from being a fundamental threat to the economy, climate action is generating new industries, new markets, more jobs and less dependency on fossil fuels. The real danger is not the threat to one's economy that comes from acting. It is, instead, the risk to one's economy by failing to act. Governments need to be courageous and smart. That means ending trillions of dollars in subsidies for fossil fuels. It means establishing an adequate price for carbon. It means stopping investments in unsustainable infrastructure that lock in bad practices for decades to come. Our future is at stake. Nothing is immune -- climate change affects everything -- and everything can be undermined. Keeping our planet's warming to well below 2 degrees is essential for global prosperity and the security of nations. That is why, next September, I will convene a Climate Summit to mobilize action and finance. We will bring together countries and cities, the real economy and real politics, business, finance and civil society, to focus on the heart of the problem. The Summit will take place one year before countries have to enhance their national climate pledges under the Paris Agreement. Only a significantly higher level of ambition will do -- and the Summit will be an opportunity for leaders and partners to showcase their ambition. For this to be possible, we must act today. The world needs you to be climate champions.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Let me now turn to new technologies and what we can do to uphold their promise but to keep their perils at bay. And there is great promise. Scientific progress has helped to cure deadly diseases, to feed growing populations, to drive economic growth and to connect businesses, communities, families and friends across the world. Rapidly developing fields such as artificial intelligence, block chain and biotechnology have the potential to turbocharge progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Artificial Intelligence is connecting people across languages, and supporting doctors in making better diagnoses. Driverless vehicles will revolutionize transportation. But there are also risks and serious dangers. Technological advances may disrupt labour markets as traditional jobs change or disappear, even as the number of young job-seekers continues to grow. Re-training will be needed at previously unimaginable scales. Education must adapt, from the earliest grades. And the very nature of work will change. Governments may have to consider stronger social safety nets and eventually universal basic income. At the same time, technology is being misused by terrorists and for sexual exploitation and abuse. Organized criminal networks lurk on the dark web, profiting from encryption and near-anonymous crypto currency payments to traffic in people and illegal goods. Some reports estimate that cybercrime is now putting US\$1.5 trillion in the pockets of cybercriminals annually. Malicious acts in cyberspace -- such as disinformation campaigns -- are polarizing communities and diminishing trust among States. And more and more people are getting their information from news or social media feeds that echo their views, reinforce tribalism and assure people that they are right and the other side is wrong. The digital revolution is also being used to discriminate against women and reinforce our male-dominated culture. Indeed, there is a deep gender gap in access to digital technologies, widening the digital divide. We must dismantle obstacles and create opportunities for women, ensure equality and change on-line and toxic corporate cultures. The technology sector must open up and become more diverse -- not least for its own benefit. With technology outracing institutions, cooperation between countries and among stakeholders will be crucial, including Member States, the private sector, research centres, civil society and academia. There are many mutually beneficial solutions for digital challenges. We need urgently to find the way to apply them. At the United Nations, we are harnessing technologies in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. We are creating innovation labs, including in my office. And in July, I established a High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, that met yesterday, and that is a dialogue platform for all key actors.

Excellencies,

The impacts of new technologies on warfare are a direct threat to our common responsibility to guarantee peace and security. The weaponization of artificial intelligence is a growing concern. The

prospect of weapons that can select and attack a target on their own raises multiple alarms – and could trigger new arms races. Diminished oversight of weapons has implications for our efforts to contain threats, to prevent escalation and to adhere to international humanitarian and human rights law. Let's call it as it is. The prospect of machines with the discretion and power to take human life is morally repugnant. Heaven forbid, any new war could very well include a massive cyberattack not only targeting military capacities, but also critical civilian infrastructure. I am encouraged by the ten possible guiding principles elaborated in Geneva last month by the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. More work on these issues, aimed at building trust between and within nations, will be needed if we are to ensure the responsible use of new technologies. I urge you to use the United Nations as a platform to draw global attention to these crucial matters and to nurture a digital future that is safe and beneficial for all.

Excellencies,

Despite the chaos and confusion in our world, I see winds of hope blowing around the globe. Just days ago, I witnessed the signing of a historic peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea in Saudi Arabia. Soon after, the presidents of Djibouti and Eritrea met in Jeddah to launch a peace process. Eritrea and Somalia have established diplomatic relations. And in the same region, in the context of a summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development – IGAD - the two rival leaders in South Sudan have finally signed a peace agreement. I am hopeful that these efforts will continue to be consolidated so that the people of the Horn of Africa can finally turn the page on war and conflict. The courageous initiative of the Singapore Summit between the leaders of the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, along with the recent meeting of the two Korean leaders in Pyongyang, offers hope for the possibility of a full and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a context of regional security. In my recent visit to Colombia, I was impressed by the peoples' strong commitment to peace, now reaffirmed by President Duque. In Central Asia, I personally witnessed strengthened cooperation among states after Uzbekistan went through a peaceful political transition. Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have taken a major step towards resolving their differences. Our peacekeeping mission in Liberia ended a decade-and-a-half of work this year following the country's first peaceful democratic transition, adding to peacekeeping successes elsewhere in West Africa. The approval of a compact on refugees and another on migration represents signs of hope, even if there is still a long way to go to reconcile full respect for the rights of people on the move with the legitimate interests of states. Hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of extreme poverty across the world over the past three decades, and we averted looming famine in the four countries impacted in the past two years.

Armenia's young people were at the heart of that country's peaceful political transition earlier this year – showing the potential of youth to use their voice to advance democracy. And the drive for gender equality is gaining ground, amid a growing awareness of pervasive discrimination against women and girls, from violence, harassment and exploitation to unequal pay and exclusion from decision-making. The United Nations must lead the way in pursuit of gender equality. For the first time in United Nations history, there is full parity in our Senior Management Group and among Resident Coordinators leading country teams around the world. We are firmly committed to equality and empowerment everywhere.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

As our Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, once reminded us: "We share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friends, is why we have the United Nations". Our future rests on solidarity. We must repair broken trust. We must reinvigorate our multilateral project. And we must uphold dignity for one and for all.

Thank you very much.



H.E. Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés
President of the Seventy Third Session of the
United Nations General Assembly



On 5 June 2018, the United Nations General Assembly elected Ecuadorean Foreign Minister María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of its upcoming 73rd session; only the fourth woman to hold that position in the history of the world body, and the first since 2006.

The President-elect of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, has more than 20 years of multilateral experience in international negotiations, peace, security, defence, disarmament, human rights, indigenous peoples, gender equality, sustainable development, environment, biodiversity, climate change and multilateral cooperation. She has served Ecuador as Minister of Foreign Affairs (twice), Minister of National Defence, and Coordinating Minister of Natural and Cultural Heritage.

In those capacities she coordinated the Sectorial Council on Foreign Policy and Promotion, which includes the Ministries of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, Foreign Trade, and the Environment. Ms. Espinosa Garcés was Chair of the Group of 77 and China until January 2018, and also served as Chair of the Andean Community. At the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, she promoted the adoption of the resolution presented by Ecuador entitled “Indigenous women: key actors in poverty and hunger eradication”. She was a chief negotiator at the sixteenth and seventeenth Conferences of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, where she facilitated the adoption of key elements in the outcome document entitled “The future we want”.

As Minister of National Defence of Ecuador, Ms. Espinosa Garcés participated in debates on women, peace and security, and promoted the creation of the South American Defence School of the Union of South American Nations, among other initiatives.

In 2008, she was the first woman to become Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations in New York. During that posting, she cofacilitated the Working Group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session. She also led efforts at the global level towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. As Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, she led and supported various negotiation processes at the Human Rights Council. She chaired the work of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Geneva, and at the twenty-first Conference of the Parties (COP 21) on Climate Change in Paris.

Ms. Espinosa Garcés was Special Adviser to the President of the Constituent Assembly that drafted the Constitution of Ecuador in 2008 and Regional Director (South America) and Adviser on Biodiversity (Geneva) at the International Union for Conservation of Nature. In both positions, she worked for approximately 10 years on various initiatives at WIPO and WTO; participated in negotiations on intellectual property, and traditional and ancestral knowledge; and supported the Andean Community and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization on strategic management and sustainable development.

Before beginning her political and diplomatic career, Ms. Espinosa Garcés was Associate Professor and Researcher at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales Sede Ecuador. During her time in academia, she received scholarships and grants from the Latin American Studies Association, the Ford Foundation, the Society of Woman Geographers and the Rockefeller Foundation towards her research in the Amazon. She also received awards from the German Agency for Cooperation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) and Natura Foundation for her research work.

Ms. Espinosa Garcés has written over 30 academic articles about the Amazon region, culture, heritage, sustainable development, climate change, intellectual property, foreign policy, regional integration, defence and security. She is a PhD candidate in Environmental Geography at Rutgers University. She holds a master’s degree in social sciences and Amazonian studies and a postgraduate diploma in anthropology and political science from the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales Sede Ecuador, as well as a bachelor’s degree in applied linguistics from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador.



United Nations General Assembly



H.E. Maithripala Sirisena

President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

The Address to the 73rd Session of the General Assembly of United Nations

25th September 2018.



**His Excellency President,
His Excellency Secretary-General,
Excellencies, Honorable Delegates and friends,**

I am very happy to participate in this 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly as the representative of Sri Lanka for the fourth time. Sri Lanka, as a member state of the United Nations, is a country that is wholly committed to uphold and practice the principles and conventions of the United Nations. We are very satisfied about the progress Sri Lanka has made during the period over three and half years under my Presidency. At the time when people voted to elect me as the head of state in January 2015, the position of the Executive Presidency that I hold today has been full of excessive powers that it could not be compared with those of a king but an emperor. I am very happy to state here that I, as a human being and an elected head of state,

delivered on the highest call our time by letting go of that excessive power by curtailing them of the Executive Presidency and transferring them to the Parliament of Sri Lanka.

During the last three and half years, we have been able to consolidate the country's record on democracy, human rights, freedom of the people, freedom of the press, and the independence of the judiciary. Therefore, today my country has moved ahead from what it was three and half years ago. Today, people in Sri Lanka live in a more humane and transformed society.

I must also mention here that, in our duties and responsibilities as member states of the United Nations, we have to broadly understand and take actions regarding emerging political trends, economic dipartites, and challenges to humanity. With regard to contemporary international political trends, we know that the issue of refugees has become a major concern today. As such, I believe that the response to this issue, as the United Nations and member states, and other organizations need to be broadened and further strengthened. Sri Lanka has adopted a middle-path foreign policy. It is one of the senior-most members of the Non-Aligned Movement. In 1976, Sri Lanka hosted a very successful summit of the Non-Aligned Movement. In our Non-aligned foreign policy, we consider all nations as our friendly nations and states. I am happy that today, Sri Lanka has no enemy nations or states.

In terms of global international political trends, I would like to mention that the United Nations as well as the powerful countries in the world should act with a boarder understanding about the problem of the Palestinian people. I would like to emphasize that Sri Lanka has always supported the struggle of the people of Palestine. Therefore, I believe that the United Nations and other states should stand up for the rights and act more humanely towards the people of Palestine, taking some of the unfortunate incidents the rein to consideration. Among the basic problems of the contemporary world, we know that poverty is one of them. When we look at the situation of poverty, I believe the United Nations should take a larger stake on behalf of the world community. When talking about poverty, we know that billions of people go hungry today. Climatic changes and adverse weather, disparity of income, and lack of sensitivity towards the general public by those in power have become serious concerns. The effects of climatic change and economic failures around the world have become causes of increased poverty. It is important, therefore, to provide help to countries that are vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change and extreme weather conditions so that their everyday life is restored. I must mention here that, other than poverty, there are other serious issues that continue to fetter us at a global scale. Racketeering of illegal arms, drugs, and penetration of illegal substances have today become great challenges to humanity. In this context, I am very happy that yesterday, a new global programme was initiated with the leadership of US President His Excellency Donald Trump and the United Nations to fight the epidemic of drugs. I believe that all countries should come together with the United Nations to implement a concerted action to fight the menace of drugs.

Given the broad mandate of the United Nations to work for the betterment of the member states, the international community, humanity and the natural world including its plant and animal life, rivers and sunlight, it is my belief that all member states of the United Nations should commit themselves to implement the Paris agreement on Climate Change, that was launched under the leadership of the former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon. In that, Sri Lanka as a member state, considers it a high priority to implement the Paris Agreement.

Talking about the internal situations of my beloved motherland, as I mentioned before, Sri Lanka has greatly improved democracy, human rights, fundamental rights, freedom of the press. It is worth comparing where Sri Lanka stood forty years before and where we are today. We fought thirty year-long terrorism and it is now nearly ten years since the LTTE terrorism is over. We have achieved a lot during those ten years. Especially, during the last three and half years, my government has done well what needs to be done in a post-conflict period. We have worked hard and continue to work hard, as we intended, to ensure peace, national reconciliation and non-recurrence of the past. As such, when it comes to the issue of the human rights, as a country that stands firmly in its commitment, I request more support of the member states of the United Nations.

It was one of the world's strongest terrorism groups that the Armed Forces of Sri Lanka eradicated. It is thanks to that achievement that Sri Lanka remains an unbroken, non-divided country with permanent peace. Our armed forces have contributed immensely to build lasting peace in Sri Lanka by defeating a strong terrorism organization. I mention this achievement with respect and thank the Sri Lanka's armed forces for their dedication to bring lasting peace and protect the unitary state of Sri Lanka.

As ten years have gone by since the end of the armed conflict, I request from the international community to look at Sri Lanka in a new perspective and with new ideas. I appeal to all of you to adopt such new ideas and perspectives to help the economic development and prosperity of my beloved country Sri Lanka, that has experienced a distressing armed conflict, and where now peace and national reconciliation are fostered, where human rights are strongly protected, where everything is done to ensure non-recurrence of an armed conflict. With respect, my request here is to let us solve our problems. Independence of a country is very important. I request assistance and cooperation of all of you to carry out our humane mission to strengthen our democracy and achieve our noble mission while protecting our national independence.

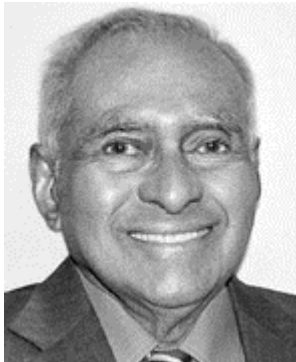
The commitments we have made and the new programme we have launched are very important to solve our problems. As a sovereign state, we need no foreign influence or threats. As such, I reiterate my request to all, as a strong nation, that allow us to sort out our problems as a sovereign nation, that moves forward while protecting our rights. I respectfully request the support of everybody as we will solve the problems that need to be solved as Sri Lankans. We also need your cooperation in my government's mission to erase doubt, fear and mistrust among communities living in my beloved motherland, while nurturing lasting peace among all communities.

It is important that we prioritize the problems of the poor people living in Sri Lanka as well as around the world. Today's youth who have new ideas and expectations, also have problems that require solutions. Considering all these, I would like to quote an example from Buddhist Literature: in Salla Sutta in the Tripitaka, Samyukta Nikaya, 36.6, the Buddha preaches thus: If a man were pierced by a dart and, following the first piercing, when touched by a painful feeling, he worries and grieves, then it's like a second dart to pierce him. First, it's the pain of the piercing, and then it's the pain of remembering the pain of such piercing. When it comes to Sri Lanka, it is the people of Sri Lanka who suffered pain due to war and they continue to feel pain when they think about it. It is important therefore that we heal the pain of our own people who suffer the pain, not others. Therefore, I take this opportunity to call upon your support and cooperation to make Sri Lanka a prosperous nation with just, democratic society upholding humanism.

Thank You Very Much

May the Noble Triple Gem Bless You

Prof. Lakshman Marasinghe
President
United Nations Association of Sri Lanka
Message on the 73rd Observance Day



When I wrote my message last year as the President of the UNA (S.L.) I was hopeful that the world in which we then lived would slowly but with care emerge out of the chaotic shell in which we were ensconced, and emerge into a world of more orderly conduct. I wrote that: "I was hopeful that the world was slowly--- creeping out of a terrible *cul de sac*, and is --- moving into an open space where breathing of some gasps of fresh air was possible".

To my dismay new situations across the globe have arisen where the world is slowly creeping back or even taking refuge in the same *cul de sac*.

A primary concern which is presently threatening the stability of the world order is the gross instability of the "World Economic Order".

The most visible factor that is affecting a whole population due to economic instability is seen in The Republic of Venezuela, one of the oil rich States, with a 1000 + % increase in the cost of living. There is no demonstrable single factor that could be associated for resulting in such a perilous economic condition.

There are several other economic ills that have recently sprung which is bound to cause adverse economic conditions across the globe. The recently un-declared tariff wars between the two economic giants – USA and China. Such a war could impact adversely, not only on the economies of those two giants but also upon smaller states which derive their own economic prosperity, from them. I am reminded of the much quoted saying of the Late President Julius Nyrere of Tanzania. He said, "When elephants fight, it is the grass that gets hurt".

There are other groupings which affect the economic prosperity of the world, which are breaking apart, which may have an adverse effect on the world economy. The two most glaring threats come from the break-up of the European Union, with the withdrawal of the U.K. --- *Brexit*---, and the combined economic, social and political blockade placed upon the State of Qatar, by a combination of other Arab States. Together with this blockade there is also the re-imposition of sanctions by the U.S upon the Islamic Republic of Iran, which may affect the particularly important oil trading route, through the *Straits of Hormuz*. Any condition which affects the free flow of oil, adversely affects the world economy.

There are, nonetheless some silver linings in the aforementioned several dark clouds. For the first time since the Korean War, and after nearly 35 years of hostility, there appears to be some certain indications that a "Peace Treaty", may come about, between the North and the South Korea, in the Korean Peninsula. The recent economic rapport seen between Russia and China, by conducting their "war games", and their discussions of a trade pact bodes well for the rest of the world.

It is therefore not all gloom. There are bright stars too in the horizon. It is therefore with the hope for a future of economic, social and political, peace and development that I wish to end this message.

Lakshman Marasinghe
President, U.N.A. (SL).



Mr. Errol Smith
Secretary General
United Nations Association of Sri Lanka
Message on the 73rd Observance Day



It's a momentous occasion for the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka (UNASL) when it commemorates the 73rd United Nations Day 2018 - National Observance which also marks the 68th Anniversary of the United Nations Association in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The United Nations Association of Sri Lanka (UNASL) was established on the 19th August, 1950, five years before Sri Lanka was admitted as a Member State of the United Nations on 14th December, 1955, together with 15 other countries.

It was a unique opportunity for the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka to be admitted as the sole National Affiliate of the World Federation of United Nations Association (WFUNA), in 1951, joining the rest of the world comprising over 100 member countries, in hosting seminars, lectures, educational sessions and inter-school competitions throughout the country, thus creating a better understanding among communities.

The UNASL is focused on sustainable development and gender equality, endeavouring to make a positive contribution in these areas. Further, human rights, democracy, environment, poverty alleviation, economic development and climate change are some of the other areas that the UNASL is focused on. It is also actively involved and plays a significant role in taking the message of the United Nations to the grassroots of the Sri Lankan population, with the co-operation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations Information Center.

We are immensely grateful to the Diplomatic Membership of the UNASL comprising Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Sri Lanka, for their valuable contributions and are looking forward to further strengthening our ties and relationships, as in the past.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not express a sincere word of gratitude to the entire membership of UNSAL, including all Special Life, Life, Annual, Honorary and Corporate Members, as well as the students and teachers of our 326 Study Circle Schools island wide, for their active participation and contribution in numerous ways in promoting and propagating the United Nations, in Sri Lanka.

Let us also remember with gratitude and pay a glowing tribute to the Founder/Secretary-General of the UNA-Sri Lanka, the late Mr. Kumaran Fernando for his great initiative, commitment and dedication towards the ideals of the United Nations.

The dynamic team of volunteers of the National Executive Committee of the UNASL should be highly commended for their commitment and dedication, which is indeed the strength of the Association.

Last but not least, on behalf of the UNA-Sri Lanka, I wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the United Nations in Sri Lanka and its specialized agencies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all those who have contributed in many ways towards the success of this event, as well as for the progress of the activities of the UNASL and we look forward to your unstinted support and co-operation, in all our future activities.

ERROL SMITH
SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Activities of the UNASL during the year 2017-2018

UNASL conducted its activities for the 72nd year under the guidance of the National Executive Committee. Highlights of activities are indicated below.

1. National Observance of the 72nd United Nations Day.



United Nations Association of Sri Lanka conducted the National Observance of the 72nd United Nations Day at a function at the Bishop's College Auditorium, Colombo 03 on 22nd October 2017 with the distinguished participation of Brigadier General Granville Elapatha, as the Chief Guest, Dr. Shiran Deraniyagala (Archeologist) as the Guest of Honour, Hon. Mujibur Rahman (MP) Ms. Kumari Wickramasinghe (UN Information Centre) Mr. Qiu Xinli Chief of Political Section, Chinese Embassy and other distinguished guests participated. Teachers and Students from many Study Circles of UNASL around the country also participated. The function commenced with the recital of the National Anthem. Around 1000 participants from all walks of life. Participated the special invitees and dignitaries present, appreciated the work of the Association throughout the year.

Welcome Address was made by the Executive Chairman of the Association Mr. M.M. Zawahir. The copies of the UNASL Annual 2017 were ceremoniously handed over to the Chief Guest, the Guest of Honour and the other distinguished invitees. The outstanding feature of this ceremony is giving many opportunities to students to showcase their talents in the presence of a large audience. The keynote address was delivered by Miss U.R.M. Vidya Nayani Senevirathne a student of Christ Church College, Matale who was the winner of the Annual Speech Contest conducted by the UNASL. Her speech was on International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development which was the UN Theme for the year 2017. Cultural Items were presented by Estrella Club of Colombo University, Toastmasters Gravel Club and OKI International. Video presentation was made on the activities of the Study Circle of Richmond College, Galle which was awarded as the best Study Circle. Awards were also distributed to the Best Teachers in Charge of Study Circle, the winners and runners up of the Speech contest, the Quiz Competition and Essay Writing Contest.



The Best Study Circle Richmond College, Galle

Deputy Executive Chairman of the UNASL Dr. M.M.M. Rushanudeen was awarded Volunteer of the year award 2017. The Secretary General Mr. Errol Smith delivered the vote of thanks.

2. The Schools Study Circle Programme.

The UNA Study Circle Programme inaugurated in 1981 has a membership of 328 partner schools at present. The Study Circle Programme, 2018 was conducted at the Premises of the Sri Vijaya Saugatha Vidyalaya, Panadura on the 8th of September as the part of the UN Day celebrations. Three contests namely, the Speech contest on the one if the UN themes for 2018, "Providing a Quality Education for all is a foundation for Sustainable Development" an Essay contest on "Coast Conservation is vital for particularly Island-States like Sri Lanka for Sustainable Development" and the General Knowledge contest were conducted. Details of winners are indicated elsewhere.

3. Kanagawa art Exhibition.

As usual we are now in the process of collecting Artwork of children from Study Circles of 4 – 15 years to the 19th Kanagawa Biennial World Children's Art Exhibition conducted by the Japan Overseas Cooperative Association (JOCA). We wish to state that in 2016 the Artwork submitted through our Association has won

'President of the United Nations Association of Japan Award'. The 20th Kanagawa Biennial World Children's Art Exhibition, we have started collecting Paintings from our Study Circle Schools until 30th November, 2018.

4. Annual General Meeting 2018.



The Annual General Meeting was held on 25th March 2018 at the National Secretariat, Cyril Jansz Mawatha, Panadura following the Hoisting of the National Flag and the UN Flag. The report of the Annual General Meeting of March 2017 and the Financial Report were presented and approved by the members. At the AGM Professor Lakshman Marasinghe was elected unanimously as President for the Fifth year in succession.



5. New Computer Centre 2018



It has been resolved by National Executive Committee of UNASL to launch a programme of improving IT literacy of school leavers and public & private sector employees in collaboration with UNA China and the Kumaran Fernando Foundation. Suitable computer courses will be introduced to suit the requirements of the target group. Members of UNASL are kindly requested to direct interested parties to the UNASL Secretariat at Panadura.

Seminar on Value of Information Technology:-

UNASL has launched a programme aimed at improving the knowledge of the general public, specially school leavers, through Information Technology.

A Computer Training Centre has been established and suitable IT courses have been designed for this purpose.

In order to provide an awareness on the importance of IT, a Seminar was conducted on 21st July, 2018 at the UNASL Secretariat, Cyril Jansz Mawatha, Panadura. Almost 40 participants were present.



The welcome address was made by Mr. Dharmadasa Vithrana, Editor UNASL, whilst Mr. Maduranga Liyanarachchi, who has been selected as the Lecturer of IT delivered a lecture on the "Importance of IT in the Modern World". He emphasized that in the present context IT or knowledge of computer application was a absolute necessity.

Mr. S.L.R.D. Ratugama, former Executive Member of UNASL spoke on the activities of the UN and UNASL and Executive Committee Member Mr. J.M.L.P. Bandara delivered the vote of thank. The Executive Chairman, Mr. M.M. Zawahir, the Secretary-General, Mr. Errol Smith, and numbers of Executive Committee were also present at the Seminar.



ENQUIRY FOR MEMBERSHIP

To –

From:

The Assistant Secretary – General
(Membership Affairs)

Name & Address:

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA (UNASL)

National Secretariat General (NSG)

Telephone:

Thirty Nine upon One

Fax:

Cyril Jansz Mawatha

E- mail:

PANADURA

Proposer:

Telephone:- 038-2232123

Seconder:

I am interested in applying for membership in the Association (UNASL)

I understand that upon receipt of my remittance which is enclosed a formal application form will be sent to me

(Signature)

NOTES –

The duly completed membership application form, including the endorsement of it by the names and signatures of a proposer and seconder (who must be members of the Association) will be taken up at a meeting of the National Executive Committee.

If and when approved, the applicant will receive together with the Treasurer's receipt, a membership card. All applicants seeking Special Life membership will receive an elegant certificate. As a Life Member an applicant is eligible to receive a plastic identity Membership card. Those seeking plastic laminated identity cards must submit a passport sized photograph.

Membership Rates

Special Life – Rs 15,000, Life – Rs 3,000, Annual- Rs 1,000, Overseas – US\$ 1000

Gold Colour Certificate – Rs. 25,000/= to 50,000/=

Silver Colour Certificate – Rs. 15,000/= to 25,000/=

Platinum Colour Certificate – Rs. 50,000/= and above

Cheque, Postal and Money orders, local as well as International Postal Money orders, must be made payable to the Association, at the Panadura Post Office. Cheques are subject to realization, while cash payments can be made at our National Secretariat.

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

IN THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

OF SRI LANKA



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2018/2019

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Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

A Review of implementation of SDGs

By the HLPF 2018

Over the last three years, the Annual of the UNASL was one of the pioneers in dissemination of information relating to preparation, adoption and review of the 2030 Agenda for the achievements of Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

The Annual of 2015 published detailed information relating to the consultative process conducted over a long period of time for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, all 17 SDGs were listed and details of steps to be taken for follow up and review of the implementation of these goals and the 169 targets were published. This information was disseminated even before the SDGs were formally adopted by the General Assembly of the UN in October 2015.

In the same manner, the Annual of 2016 followed up with two articles, one on 'Environmental Sustainability' and another titled "The path towards 2030". Therein the 17 goals were identified again and the role to be played by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN (DESA) in reviewing the progress of the implementation was discussed. It indicated that the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) which was established in 2012 has been treated as the central platform for follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda and was expected to provide political leadership and guidance to all member countries in the implementation and review. The follow up was conducted under the theme "No one was left behind"

The same pattern was followed in the Annual of 2017. In an article titled Sustainable Development "where are we and where to" details of the reviews conducted by the HLPF were discussed. This review was conducted under the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity." Six SDGs namely 01 Poverty, 02 Food Security, 03 Health, 05 Gender Equality, 09 Sustainable Industrialization and 14 Conservation of Marine Life were reviewed in detail. It was also mentioned that the theme for 2018 would be "Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies".



Review for 2018

Following up on the work of in the past three Annuals, it has been decided to discuss in some detail, the review process conducted and the outcome of these reviews in the

Annual for this year.

As indicated earlier, the theme for review and the follow up for 2018 was "Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies" The theme for the year is based on strengthening of the resilience of all stakeholders in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

HLPF 2018

The HLPF was conducted from 9th -18th July in New York under the auspices of ECOSOC and DESA. These consultations were three pronged. There was a detailed discussion on the Theme for the year “Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies” and few areas of Thematic Review and Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) conducted by many countries.



Discussions commenced with a session on “ How far we have come” on SDGs. The purpose of this session was to ascertain the success of implementation of the SDGs up to now. An attempt was made to identify countries that are getting left behind in the implementation of SDGs. The need for the development of a suitable statistical data base and the progress towards development of such a data base was also examined.

Thereafter, four sessions of Thematic Review were conducted. It started with the session on “Building resilience” In view of the fact that the theme for year is based on strengthening resilience, it would be worthwhile to examine the exact meaning of the term ‘Resilience’. This term has been defined in the programme of the HLPF as follows.

“ The term ‘resilience’ describes the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management, to recover from or adjust easily to calamity or change. Building resilience is thus a multidimensional challenge and a cross-cutting issue that will impact progress towards the SDGs and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

The purpose of this session was to identify the countries that have not been able to develop resilience and also the actions and policies that are necessary to enable them to increase the level of resilience. The usefulness of Science and Technology in this aspect and how integrated policies could address resilience gaps, were also discussed.

There was a further session on Advancing Science and Technology on Innovation where the important question as to how Science can interface with policies to strengthen the implementations of SDGs by the use of Innovative Technology was discussed.

Sessions relating to problems of Small Island Developing Countries, Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Middle income Countries were held thereafter. It has been noted that certain actions related to rapid urbanization in many countries inclusive of some MICs at times have conflicted with the need to protect the Eco systems which is an essential part of Sustainable Development.

There was a session on the lessons from the regions in implementing the SDGs. This session was conducted by the Executive Secretaries of the Five Regional Commissions of ECOSOC namely, ECLAC

(Latin America and the Caribbean), ECA (Africa), ESCWA (West Asia), ECE (Europe) and ESCAP (Asia and the Pacific). This session was expected to provide a better understanding of the inter linkages between action at national, regional and global levels and to examine how regional commission can better support countries in their march toward 2030 Agenda.

Second part of the HLPF consisted of detailed reviews of the six SDGs that were earmarked for detailed study at this year sessions. They were

- Goal 06 – the availability of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 07 – assurance of sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 11 – sustainable development of the urban sector
- Goal 12 – sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 15 – protection restoration and promotion of the sustainable use of all Eco systems
- Goal 17 – strengthening the means of implementation (this is the only goal that is taken up for review each year)

It is not intended to discuss the consultative process conducted on all six goals mentioned above in this article due to limitations of space. However some of these goals are expected to be discussed elsewhere in the Annual with an emphasis on Sri Lanka.

A wrap up session on “Leaving No One Behind. Are we succeeding? ” was also held. The purpose of this session was to gather evidence from earlier sessions to examine the possibilities of moving forward without leaving any one behind. It has been noted that this would be an enormous task that may require the transformation of political and economic systems and business models which in the past were based on unequal distribution of wealth and decision making power. In addition, all countries should support in their moves towards this path.

VNRs

The second week of the Forum was earmarked for the presentation of 47 Voluntary National Reviews from countries around the world. There were two types of presentations. Twelve countries inclusive of Bhutan made panel type presentations while the rest of the countries including Australia, Spain, Poland, Sri Lanka and Switzerland made individual presentations. These presentations were conducted from 16th -18th July. Sri Lanka’s VNR would be discussed in a separate article elsewhere in the annual emphasizing on the achievements of Sri Lanka in the march towards the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to the presentations proper, there were eight ‘VNR Labs’ that were conducted on various topics. These Labs were conducted by the DESA with the assistance of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP, a subsidiary of ECOSOC). These Labs were conducted at the request of many member countries and other stakeholders in order to take stock of the success of the VNR. Six of these labs studied various topics selected by the DESA and the CDP. Two other Labs discussed the experiences of two countries namely Switzerland and Jamaica. This was an attempt to share their experiences in conducting VNR with other countries.

Concluding sessions commenced thereafter with Ms. Marie Chatardova, the President of the ECOSOC in the chair. The Secretary General Antonio Guterres making the Key Note Address commented on the **Resolve** and the **Commitment** shown by most of the countries and the local government and regional authorities in these countries stating that they reflect the growing and increasingly crucial efforts of the civil society, the private sector and the academia. However he highlighted that discussions indicated that certain countries are lagging behind or even back tracking in a few crucial areas. He mentioned that the number of people who are undernourished have increased due to conflicts, drought and other disasters of many types, some linked to climate change. Gender inequality is an issue in many areas and also the inadequacy of a Sustainable Infrastructure.

He identified five areas crucial for the success of the SDGs.

- Empowering of Youth
- Getting Greenhouse Gas Emissions under control
- Strengthening the funding for SDGs
- The use of Science and Technology in a manner that will not increase exclusion and inequality.
- Strengthening the institutions

He emphasized that multilateralism is the only way out and that all must get together behind the 2030 Agenda.

Thereafter, the Ministerial Declaration was adopted with 164 member countries voting in favor with two countries namely USA and Israel voting against. The declaration affirmed the commitment towards 2030 agenda and the objectives of the SDGs.

Ms. Marie Chatardova making the closing remarks stressed that we are only “at the beginning of the journey” and “we cannot afford to loose the momentum”. “let us move towards implementing the recommendations and make stronger commitments and scale up the best practices” she concluded.

Plans for 2019

At the conclusion of the 2018 session, plans for review of SDGs for 2019 was agreed upon. The theme as agreed upon earlier would be “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. Six SDGs are expected to be reviewed namely,

- 04- Education
- 08- Growth and Development
- 10- Reducing Inequality
- 13- Climatic Change
- 16- Peace, Justice and Strong Implementation
- 17- Means of Implementation the goals that would be reviewed each year.

A series of voluntary national reviews will be conducted by individual member countries. More than 30 countries have already agreed to conduct such reviews. It was also agreed that the HLPF would meet twice in 2019, first under the auspices of the ECOSOC in July and again under the auspices of the General Assembly in September when all Heads of State and Government are expected to review the entire agenda.

Compiled by

Sumathi Nimal Fernando

Sustainable Development Goals: Some Challenges Facing Sri Lanka

Professor DYD Samarawickrama,
Queen Mary University of London, UK

Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals MDGs have come and gone. These goals were targeted towards the poor countries and were meant to reduce poverty, hunger, disease, lack of education, gender inequality and damage to the environment.

Although the developing countries did make substantial progress towards achieving the MDGs, the outcomes have varied across the countries. And within each country, not all the goals have been achieved with equal success. There is also the underlying fact that very rapid economic growth in China, the world's most populous nation, has contributed most to the collective poverty reduction thus masking the shortfalls in other less populous but not necessarily less important countries.

This is disappointing given that the MDGs were limited to only eight goals with measurable objectives and timelines spelt out along the way. There was also effective mobilisation of public opinion world-wide. The failure to achieve MDGs comprehensively has hit the poor the hardest. Some of the failures can be attributed to poor implementation of relevant policies, mismanagement of programmes and corruption. Another important factor has been the failure of the rich countries to keep their promises of development assistance. Although the developed countries made promises of setting aside 0.7% of GDP for development assistance to the less developed, the reality has been very different.

MDGs and Sri Lanka

Nevertheless, Sri Lanka has made better progress with the MDGs than its neighbours have been able to. Sri Lanka has halved its poverty rate, achieved universal primary education, reduced child mortality further and improved maternal health. Obviously, Sri Lanka joined the start line for MDGs with a few advantages: free education, high literacy rate and a health service free at the point of delivery. Therefore, it is no surprise that it has done better than other countries across the globe in a similar developmental category.

However, Sri Lanka has failed to achieve gender equality and ensure environmental protection. In addition, there are regional differences when analysing relevant indicators. War ravaged North and East have been lagging behind the South in socio-economic development in spite of efforts made by post-war governments to address this imbalance.

Sustainable Development Goals SDGs

In this climate, cynics have questioned the wisdom of setting another set of goals, the Sustainable Development Goals or the SDGs over another 15-year cycle. The MDGs were compact, well canvassed and understood globally. In comparison, SDGs number 17 with 232 indicators. There has been some confusion whether the total number of indicators is 244 but nine indicators are repetitive under two or three different goals making the actual total to be 232. Even the publications and the website of the Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka list 244 SDGs.



The SDGs are rather long-winded to ensure that they are explicit and means the same to all stakeholders. This makes them harder to grasp quickly. A simplified list is given below:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. No poverty | 10. Reducing inequalities |
| 2. Zero hunger | 11. Sustainable cities and communities |
| 3. Good health and well-being for people | 12. Responsible consumption and production |
| 4. Quality education | 13. Climate action |
| 5. Gender equality | 14. Life below water |
| 6. Clean water and sanitation | 15. Life on land |
| 7. Affordable and clean energy | 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions |
| 8. Decent work and economic growth | 17. Partnership for goals |
| 9. Industry, innovation and infra-structure | |

The seventeen goals can be grouped under the three broad headings, environmental protection, economic development and inclusive human development. Actually, the latter two should be undertaken with the first in mind.

Why the SDGs?

There has been a growing awareness that the world could not function in the way it has over the last few centuries. The rich countries have got richer, the poor poorer and finite global resources exploited with scant regard to the adverse impact such actions have on the environment. The world population is expected to reach 8 billion by 2024 and the human activity is putting unprecedented stress on the earth's ecosystems. As a result of these, increased green house gas emissions have led to global warming. And the oceans are drowning in plastic. As scientists warned a few years ago, global warming is causing adverse weather events across the globe ever more frequently. Then there is environmental pollution as a result of the runoffs of nitrogen-based and phosphate-based fertilizers. Closer to home is the pollution of ground water in the North Central Province in Sri Lanka. There is massive deforestation due to unsustainable demand for timber in all its forms. This has led to soil erosion, landslides and changes to rainfall pattern globally including Sri Lanka.

Therefore, there is the need for urgent, global efforts to bring about significant change to human behaviour if the humanity is to dwell this planet for a few centuries more. The choice is clear: do we carry on as before and deprive our children, grand-children and the generations to come the chance to call earth their home or change our behaviour so that the future generations continue to live peacefully in a green planet?

The uniqueness of SDGs is that they involve not only the less developed countries but also the developed countries. There is an urgency for sustainable development of the entire world. After all, economic development, environmental sustainability and social inclusion are not limited to the poor. There are bound to be individual variations between countries, regions and the continents but the sum total of economic and human development must not exceed the limits imposed by the fragile nature of the environment. Even if one country were to be irresponsible and exceed the limits, the effects will be both local and global at the same time with knock-on effects on other countries, regions and the continents.

SDGs and Sri Lanka

Like 163 other countries, Sri Lanka also signed up to the SDGs at the UN meeting held in New York in 2016. The government has taken some steps towards implementing the SDGs. Given that Sri Lanka

has achieved most of the MDGs by 2015, it should not be difficult to meet the target of achieving SDGs by 2030.

However, many challenges remain. This paper discusses a limited number of challenges Sri Lanka faces in its quest to achieve the SDGs by 2030. It is not comprehensive.

Politics and Governance

This remains one of the biggest challenges facing Sri Lanka. At every level, the government and its numerous agencies need to respond to the needs of its citizens. However, the citizens will label politics and governance as corrupt and ineffective in dealing with even the basic issues of the day let alone SDGs. Many average politicians are unlikely to be aware of the SDGs. Even if they are aware, they are unlikely to view these as relevant to their immediate objective of maintaining their prominent role in society with the attendant benefits. A scan of the newspapers shows hardly anyone championing the SDGs because they may not see what immediate gain, personal and political, they can have by doing so. To be fair, there are many politicians who understand the issues including the SDGs and want to build a better Sri Lanka for all its citizens. However, they are not in a position to make much headway given the narrow interests of politicians of all shades inhabiting the legislature.

Even when some action is taken, there is lack of co-ordination. Take for example the Meethotamulla garbage disaster. Only the collapse of the dump causing death, injury and damage to property propelled the authorities to take action and try to move it elsewhere. It would have been better if a scheme was put in place to recycle the waste where possible and use the non-recyclables to generate energy before the tragedy struck. Obviously, such an approach needs an awareness of technology, a concern for the environment and a coordinated action by different agencies responsible for implementing a multi-sector approach.

One positive development is the increasing role civil society organisations are playing in highlighting the shortcomings of the political system. These organisations have found an increasing voice to the delight of many observers. Perhaps, there is hope.

Energy Sector

In theory, this sector should be working to generate clean energy, provide energy security and supply energy to the people at affordable prices. The reality is very disappointing.

As many are aware, electricity for homes and industry is generated in Sri Lanka from water (hydro-power), coal, wind and solar energy. Surprisingly, coal has become a major source of power generation given that Sri Lanka has no coal deposits and coal burning is also a major contributor to global warming. Sri Lanka has also had bad experiences with a Chinese-built coal power plant yet some employee groups within the state-owned Electricity Board are very keen on “Least Cost Energy Plan” based on coal. Why? Are they blind to the impact existing coal plants are already having on the environment and the people living in the vicinity of the plant? Are they also unaware that other countries with substantial coal deposits are shutting down coal powered power plants? Take for example the United Kingdom: a country rich in coal deposits and with very long history of using coal to generate energy has shut down its coal-based power plants and gone for renewable energy in a very big way with the latter now accounting for more than 40% of energy generation today. In these circumstances, why is Sri Lanka is planning to open another coal-based power plant is illogical.

The energy policy in Sri Lanka has less to do with rational thinking and much to do with vested interests and other factors. In theory, there is a regulator who is supposed to develop an energy policy but we understand that this body is in conflict with the state-owned Electricity Board. Unless there is a

comprehensive energy policy is based on scientific principles and a healthy respect for the environment, Sri Lanka is unlikely to achieve the energy related SDGs (7 and 13). This will be a tragedy.

Water Management

Only the big cities and some of the towns have pipe-born water supplies. Most of rural Sri Lanka depends on water from wells and streams. There is nothing wrong with this provided the water sources are not contaminated with chemicals and other pollutants. One has only to recall events in Rathupussewela and the situation in North Central Province to understand the emotive aspects of water supply and the challenges facing Sri Lanka in this regard. It is no longer possible to take for granted a sustained supply of clean water.

An increase in population and the demands of farming and industry are putting a lot of pressure on the water supplies. Sri Lanka is not alone in experiencing the effects of climatic oscillations that cause intense flooding one season and very long droughts the next.

Management of water resources can be made more resilient to climate change by establishing multi-purpose water supply schemes. There are some in existence already. More such schemes should be launched. This has to be coupled with a commitment by all sectors to share water resources fairly: industry needs to recycle and re-use water and agriculture must use more efficient farming methods. One positive feature is that households in general do not waste water when water has to be paid for. Lessons should be learned from what has happened to Murray and Darling rivers in Australia. Intense farming has drawn unsustainable amounts of water from these two rivers and prolong droughts have worsened the situation. This has led to the very survival of livestock in the affected areas of Australia. A similar situation can arise in Sri Lanka if timely action is not taken to conserve water and ensure water security.

Waste Management

This is one area where Sri Lanka needs to do a lot. Colombo for example, has a waste collection service but what is done with the collected waste is another matter. Meethotamulla garbage dump was a disaster waiting to happen. Only solution so far has been to move the dump elsewhere. However, a waste management system that protects the environment and generates useful by-products is yet to be implemented. We understand that a foreign investor is interested in setting up a plant to manage this. This is thought to be mired in controversy.

Colombo also has a sewerage system to manage human waste but it does not cover Greater Colombo Area. Beyond the inner city limits, human waste is collected in individual pits. In the long term, there is bound to be pollution of ground water.

Rest of Sri Lanka including the cities such as Kandy, Galle, Anuradhapura and Jaffna do not have sewage systems to manage human waste. General waste is also not managed properly. This is one area Sri Lanka is facing serious challenges with regard to the relevant SDGs. Proper solutions to manage garbage need substantial funding which Sri Lanka does not have. In any case there are other pressing needs to be met.

Transport

Motor vehicles are a major source of air pollution especially in urban areas. Traffic congestion worsens the situation as witnessed firsthand for example, in Colombo and Kandy.

To state that Sri Lanka has no transport policy is an understatement. A basic principle should be to promote public transport in all its forms and to wean away the travelling public from private transport.

However, investment in the railway has been in fits and starts with the track in a poor state and the trains mostly of old stock. There are a few new trains of late but much more rolling stock is needed to cater to the needs of daily commuters. Most stations are dirty and offer only few basic amenities. One has only to visit the Fort Railway Station to see how dirty and outdated it is. Over-crowded, accident prone and outdated trains often running late are unlikely to lure commuters from private transport. If only the funds spent on unwanted flagship projects could have been spent on modernising the railway, the story would have been very different.

Equally, semi-privatised bus services are a disgrace. There are no large private bus companies: only hundreds of small time bus owners, each trying to earn enough to pay off the loans taken to purchase the busses in the first place. This has led to intense competition between the owners for the most lucrative routes and time slots. Bribery and corruption in the allocation of route permits is alleged to be rampant. The buses do not run to a time table, are accident prone and staffed by poorly trained and poorly paid employees whose main goal is to make as many trips as possible in a day, often speeding to get to the destination quickly irrespective of other consequences. When the authorities tried to introduce time tables a few years ago, the industry objected very strongly and the proposal was abandoned. This is bizarre given that a well run, punctual bus service will attract more commuters. Recently, bus industry was reported to be wondering why people were deserting the bus in favour of more expensive private transport! Who wants to travel in dirty, over-crowded and unsafe busses which do not run to a time table?

Whether any government or agency has the foresight and the political will to formulate and implement a rational public transport policy involving both road and rail transport is anybody's guess.

Socio-economic Development

One of the SDGs is the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8). Although there is economic growth, it is not inclusive with lower strata of society getting the least benefit. In addition, development must be inclusive socially with fairness and equitable access to public services and the government acting against social discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, religion, and race. Regrettably, the government record on these issues has been poor.

One does not have to be an economist or a sociologist to see an increasingly unequal and a polarised society in Sri Lanka. This cannot be sustained because such gross imbalances will retard growth eventually and can lead to civil unrest. Sri Lanka has already witnessed small scale civil unrest from time to time because of the perceived injustices of the system. There are many time bombs ticking away and the authorities need to take note of these and act sooner than later.

Conclusions

This article has dealt with only a few challenges facing Sri Lanka as it tries to meet the SDGs by 2030. The, limitations of time and space does not allow for a detailed discussion of the issues in depth. Nevertheless, one must emphasise that action needs to be taken and taken urgently because the damage to the earth's ecosystem due to human activity is accelerating. The very existence of humans on earth is under threat not next century but now. It is worth remembering what President Macron of France stated in June this year:

"I believe in building a better future for our children, which requires offering them a planet that is still habitable in 25 years".

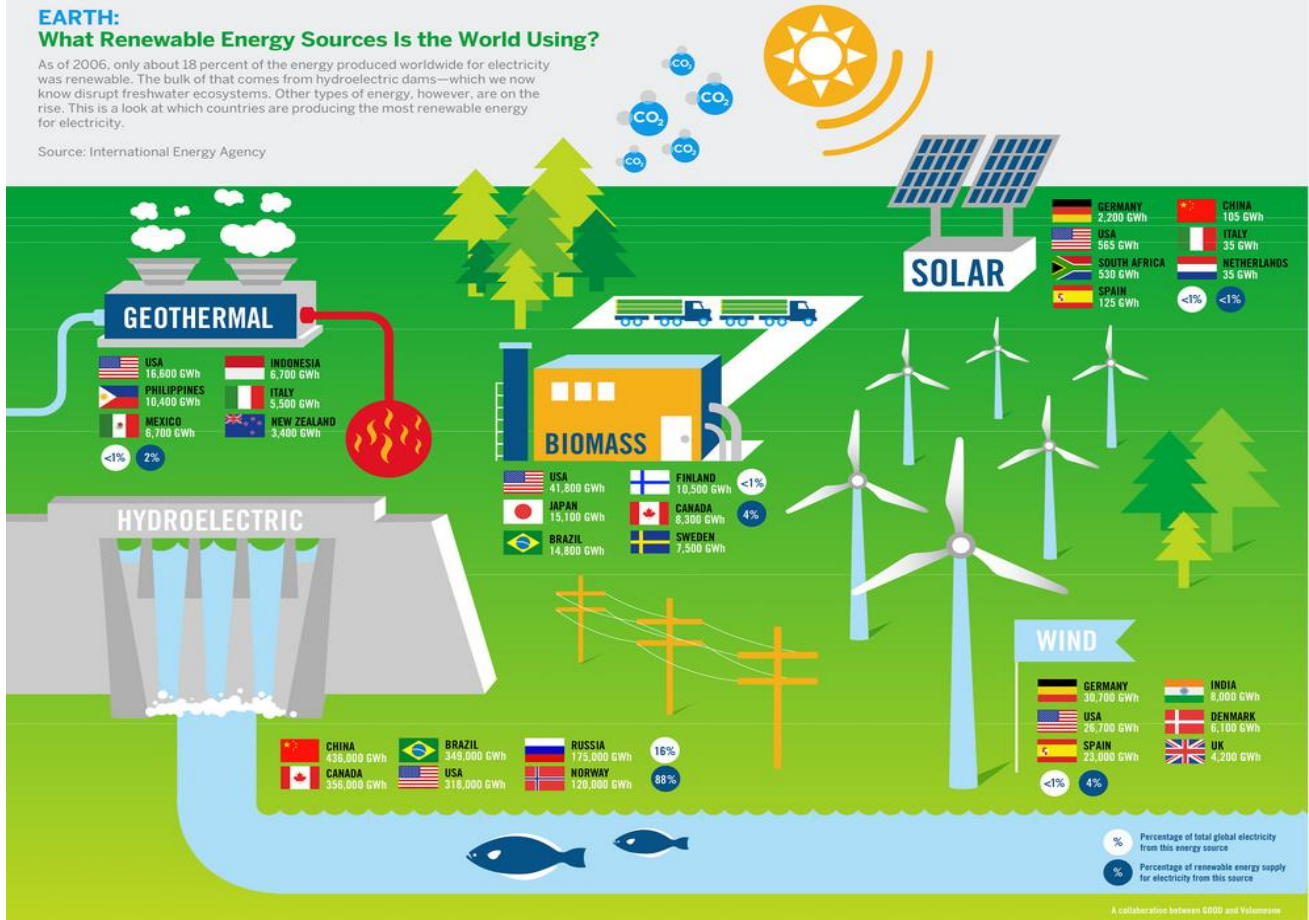
Sustainable Development Goals are a UN project. Therefore, the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka has an important role to play in highlighting the issues, educating the public and holding the authorities to account. The hope is that Sri Lanka will muddle along as it has always done. This need not be so. There is a better alternative of taking charge of the country's destiny and acting in concert to realise its full potential for the benefit of the MANY not the FEW.

Renewable Energy

EARTH: What Renewable Energy Sources Is the World Using?

As of 2006, only about 18 percent of the energy produced worldwide for electricity was renewable. The bulk of that comes from hydroelectric dams—which we now know disrupt freshwater ecosystems. Other types of energy, however, are on the rise. This is a look at which countries are producing the most renewable energy for electricity.

Source: International Energy Agency



WIND POWER
Wind energy is generated by harnessing the power of wind to turn turbines and wind mills to generate electricity

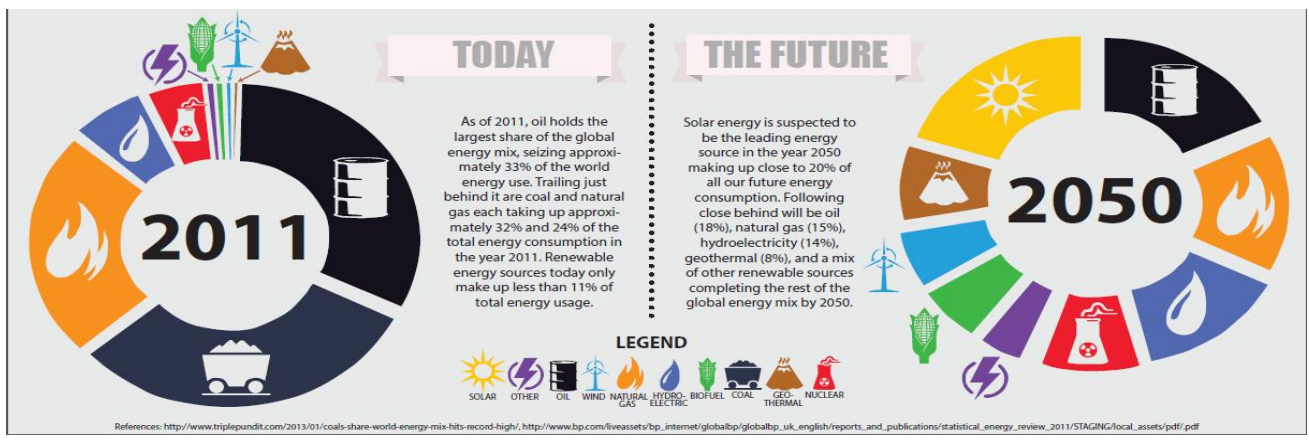
GEOTHERMAL ENERGY
Taps into the earth natural energy for electricity generation

BIOFUEL
Derived from organic mass that makes up plants and animal manure to create electricity, transportation fuels and chemicals

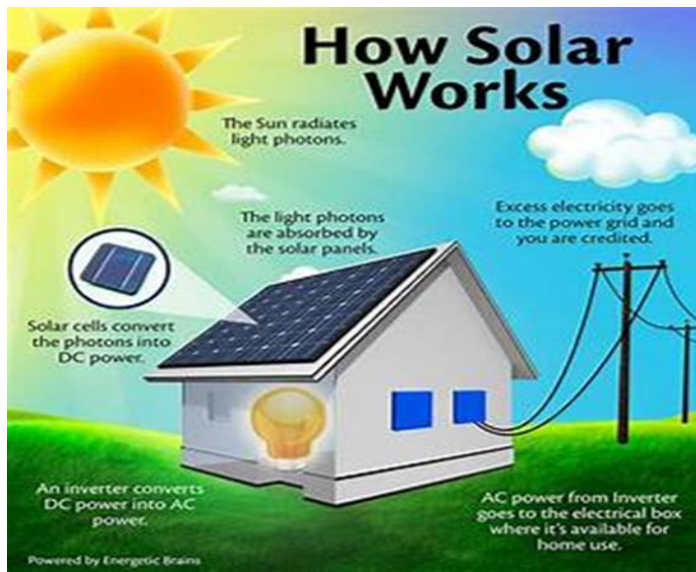
SOLAR ENERGY
The sun hits the earth with 10,000 times more solar energy than is needed to energize the entire planet

HYDROPOWER
Harvested by turning the potential energy in the pressurized, dammed sea water to kinetic energy (electricity)

5 Major Types of Renewable Energy Sources



Types of Energy



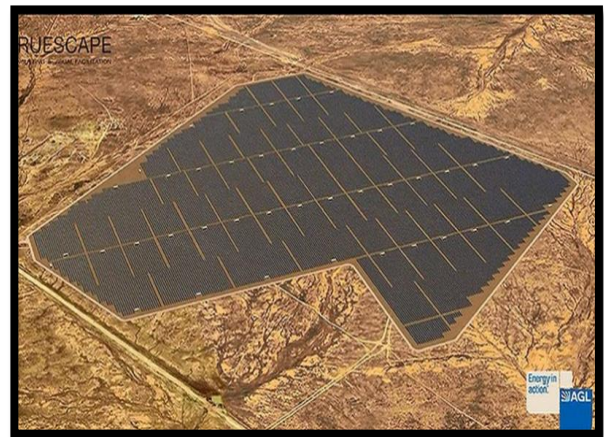
- ### Advantages
- Solar energy is a completely renewable resource.
 - Oil, which is what most people currently use to power their homes, is not a renewable resource.
 - Solar cells make absolutely no noise at all.
 - Very little maintenance is required to keep solar cells running.
 - Solar panels and solar lighting may seem quite expensive when you first purchase it, but in the long run you will find yourself saving money.

Many Countries Use Solar Energy in Different Manner

Solar Panels are used in Australia, Canada, USA, UK & Many other Countries



Solar Towers in Israel



Geo Thermal Energy



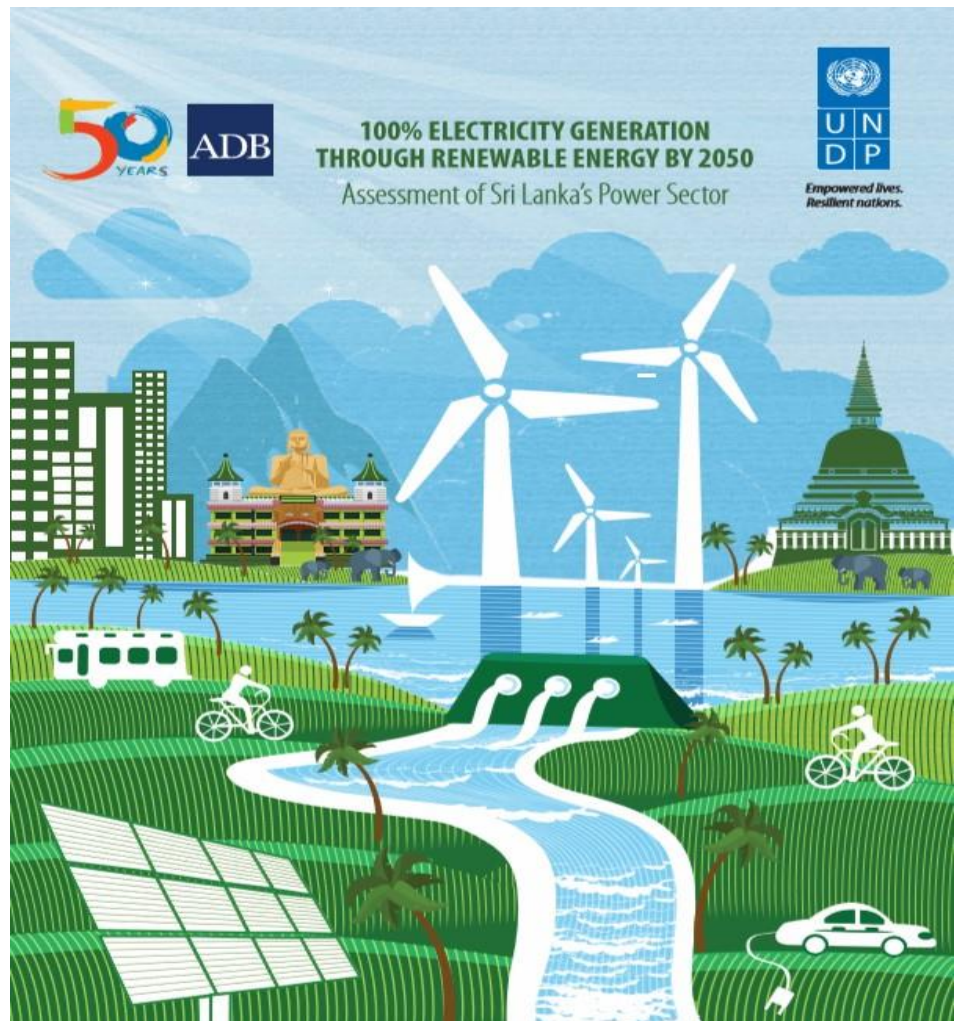
Sri Lanka's Renewable Energy

Sri Lanka uses Hydro Power for 10%
Of Energy needs.

*But other types of renewable energy are not widely used.
There is potential for solar energy and wind energy.
As a country getting over 12 hours of sun shine through out the year.*

A recent study by the UNDP and the ADB has indicated that with proper investment Sri Lanka can generate 100% of the energy needs through renewable energy by 2050.

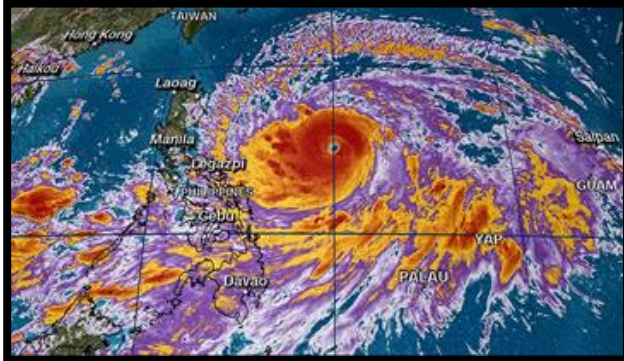
The investment needs to be large but as a country with a lot of potential to generate wind power and solar power we are lagging behind the rest of the world and specially south and South East Asia.



**We must start
better later than never
and move away from fossil fuel as soon as practicable.**

Havoc Resulting From Vagaries of Global Warming and Climate Change in the Recent Past

Hurricanes



Tornados



Heavy Rains



Bush Fires



Landslides



Are these outcome of ignoring the importance of the need for
Reduction of carbon emissions
and ignoring the *Paris Agreement*
we must act: 2019 Climate Summit

Sri Lanka's Voluntary National Review

Submitted to the HLPF in July 2018

Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) have become an integral part of the mechanism for follow up and review of the success of the 2030 Agenda for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The need for such a mechanism of reviews to be conducted on the basis of information to be provided by member countries was proposed for the first time in the report of the Secretary General to the General Assembly of the UN in January 2016 soon after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. A set of common reporting guidelines was also developed and adopted so that VNR's would be comparable and all stakeholders inclusive of member countries and other agencies of the UN will be able to make comparative studies of the successes and challenges faced by individual member countries.

Many countries commenced the submission of VNR's from 2016 onwards. Twenty three countries inclusive of the many from the developed world namely France, Finland, Germany and China as well as Asian countries such as the Philippines were among the first to submit VNR's.

In 2017 too, many countries in the developed world including Japan, Sweden and Italy along with many Asian countries such as India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Maldives and Thailand were among the countries that submitted VNR's.

Some revisions were made to the reporting format in December, 2017 allowing certain flexibility to member countries in the preparations of VNR's while adhering to the common guidelines.

A perusal of the list of countries that have opted to conduct VNR's indicate clearly the willingness of all countries whether developed or not, with many or lessor problems to join in the VNR process in order to discuss problems faced by each of them in order to make a success of the march towards 2030 Agenda.

Sri Lanka was one of the 46 countries that presented VNR's at the sessions of the HLPF in July 2018. There were two types of presentations, panel presentations and individual presentations. Sri Lanka's presentation was made in the form of an individual presentation on 17th of July along with three other countries namely Uruguay, Switzerland and Australia. At the time of the presentation a comprehensive report prepared according to the guidelines formulated by the UN was also submitted to all member countries. This report prepared in a reader friendly manner contains a very clear picture of the achievements in the march towards the 2030 Agenda and a clear assessment of the challenges faced that needs to be overcome in the future.

We publish below a summary of the report submitted at the sessions. However readers are recommended to peruse this document.

MAIN MESSAGES FROM SRI LANKA'S VNR TO HLPF 2018

Introduction

Having overcome a three decade long terrorist conflict, Sri Lanka has begun its “transformation towards a sustainable and resilient society”. The poverty rate has dropped to 4.1% in 2016 and country is reaching towards the upper middle income status with a per capita GDP of USD 4,066 in 2017. Unemployment rate stood below 5% for last seven years. Free education and health policies have resulted in high life expectancy (75 years) and high youth literacy (98.7%) rates. UN has recognized Sri Lanka among “high human development” achieved countries.

Stakeholder engagement:

Increasing the multi-stakeholder engagement for the 2030 agenda was a key objective of the VNR process designed by a multi-stakeholder committee; guided by a Task Force; and facilitated by a Consultant. Stakeholders across the country were consulted in five workshops. An online engagement platform was developed.

Key plans and strategies for implementation of SDGs:

The government's “Vision 2025” that provides the overall vision and the Public Investment Programme, the three-year rolling plan align significantly with SDGs.

The National Budget 2018 focuses on a “Blue Green Economy” envisaged to create an eco-friendly environment where all can co-exist harmoniously.

Means of implementation:

The Sustainable Development Act enacted in October 2017 provides for formulating a national sustainable development policy and strategy. The President has appointed the Sustainable Development Council to implement the Act.

The government adopted mainstreaming SDGs into institutional plans as its main strategy to achieve SDGs.

Main challenges encountered and areas of progress:

Poverty

Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) of 1.9 % in 2012/2013 reflects reduction in poverty. However, poverty pockets exist throughout country and disparities observed among districts.

Efficiency and coverage of the existing social protection programmes are being improved to support the poor and vulnerable.

Health

Maternal mortality, under-five mortality and neonatal mortality have reduced remarkably. Population aging and increasing non-communicable diseases are challenges. Health Policy 2016 - 2025 addresses issues in financing, regulations and primary healthcare.

Education

Sri Lanka has achieved near universality in youth literacy rate, school enrollment and primary education completion. Improving the quality and relevance of education, increasing access to higher and vocational education, standardizing non-state education and strengthening linkage between general and vocational education remain challenges.

Gender equality

Sri Lanka ranks 73rd out of 188 countries in the gender inequality index. Gender inequalities are observed in labor force participation and political representation.

Regulations have been introduced to facilitate women to balance work with their responsibilities within the family. Women's share in local authorities has been increased through legislation.

Water & Sanitation

Around 89.5% of the population has access to safe drinking water. However, disparities exist regionally and issues exist on quality and quantity of drinking water.

87 % of the population possesses onsite sanitation facilities. Providing facilities to the rest and managing wastewater in urban centers and industrialized areas remain challenges.

Energy

Sri Lanka has over 98% coverage of domestic electricity supply. Renewable sources account for 53% of total primary energy supply. Rising dependency on imports and cost of energy are challenges. The government explores renewable energy options, demand side management, and regulating the sector.

Transport

Public transport accounts for 57% of passengers. Traffic congestion in urban areas, increasing private vehicle usage and road accidents are challenges. Measures such as railway electrification, Light Rail Transit System and fuel efficient vehicles are being introduced to modernize transport.

Tourism

Sri Lanka has tremendous potential for tourism with its geographical location and the many diverse attractions within a relatively small area. Annual tourist arrivals have increased five-fold during the last ten years. A transformation in the tourism strategy is needed for its sustainability.

Natural resources

Sri Lanka is one of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots. High level of endemism is observed in most taxonomic groups. However, a considerable number of species are threatened species. Meanwhile, deforestation has become a challenge due to increased demand for land. Solutions have been identified in the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan.

Peace

The government seeks to build a peaceful, stable, reconciled and prosperous Sri Lanka based on a three-pillared strategy of strengthening democracy, reconciliation, and economic development, with the participation of all stakeholders, as reflected in the Peace building Priority Plan as well.

Inclusive Growth for Achieving SDGs in Sri Lanka

By Sirimevan Colombage,

Emeritus Professor of Economics, Open University of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has maintained a successful track record for many decades as an outlier in achieving human development among developing countries. In this background, the country performed well in reaching United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were established for the year 2015. Since the endorsement of UN's 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the government of Sri Lanka has taken several initiatives to facilitate achieving those goals.

The theme of this article chosen for this paper – inclusive growth – is a new development paradigm that has attracted the attention of many development economists and policymakers all over the world in recent times. Going beyond the traditional notion of growth, which is measured in terms of a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the emphasis in inclusive growth is on the need to share the benefits of growth fairly by all segments of the society rather than leaving the rich to get richer. Inclusive growth is essential to realize the SDGs.

Materializing SDGs through inclusive growth is quite a challenging task for a developing country like Sri Lanka. The purpose of this article is to focus on the role of inclusive growth in Sri Lanka in achieving the SDGs, specifically the goals of (a) no poverty, (b) zero hunger, (c) good health and well-being, (d) decent work and economic growth and (e) reduced inequalities.

1, Introduction

In common with many parts of the world, economic inequality has risen in Sri Lanka despite an annual average GDP growth rate of 5 percent achieved in recent decades. The average incomes of the country's richest 10 percent of the population are as much as 26 times that of the poorest 10 percent. The gap between the rich and the poor is evident not only among different income groups but also across sectors and districts. Although the incidence of poverty has declined in terms of the official poverty line, it remains a major economic challenge. Around 40 percent of the population live below the income threshold of \$ 2 a day. The majority of the poor live in the rural sector which are predominantly agricultural areas. Poverty is acute among the youth. The poor do not have access to food, safe drinking water, health care facilities, education and transport. Technological changes have led to increase demand for high-skilled workers restraining job opportunities for the poor who are mostly unskilled workers. Meanwhile, the tax system in Sri Lanka is not geared to mobilize higher taxes from the rich, and thereby to redistribute a portion of growth benefits to the poor.

Thus, the benefits of economic growth have not been trickled down to the lower income categories, as postulated in conventional theories. In this context, it has become critically important to make growth socially inclusive. Inclusive growth could be defined as economic growth that creates opportunities for all segments of the population and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity, both in monetary and non-monetary terms, fairly across the society. The phenomenon of inclusive growth has been increasingly applied worldwide since the beginning of this century to focus on countries' socioeconomic progress beyond GDP. Inclusive growth is not only about money income growth, but encompasses

income and wealth distribution and poverty. It also captures a broad spectrum of quality of life including child nutrition, health care, education, housing, transport and employment opportunities.

Creation of productive and adequately remunerated job opportunities is central to inclusive growth. It enables all segments of the population to participate in the development process, and thereby to share the benefits of growth. This essentially requires redesigning of public policies to accelerate economic growth and to improve inclusiveness. In this context, policy reforms are imperative in education, taxation and labour market to ensure fairness and efficiency.

2. Evolving Growth Paradigms

The notion of growth has evolved in different directions based on diverse experiences of developed and developing countries during the last seven decades. By the 1990s, it became apparent that the standard prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were inappropriate for developing countries. Such approaches were challenged by the pro-poor alternatives manifested by the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) launched in 2000.

Nevertheless, the mainstream school has reemerged again with the paradigm of inclusive growth since the beginning of 2000. This was supported by the proponents of pro-poor growth and the new growth framework developed by the World Bank. While recognizing the necessity of economic growth for poverty reduction, inclusive growth stresses the need to have a combination of policies to be identified through "growth diagnostics" to ensure reduction of poverty and income inequality. Thus, inclusive growth is a much broader concept than the widely-used notion of economic growth measured solely in terms of GDP aggregating a country's income or production. Inclusive growth captures not only the pace of growth but also the pattern of growth. It is achieved by ensuring all to participate in the development process. As economic growth does not necessarily lead to inclusive growth, public policies are essential to materialize the socioeconomic objectives beyond GDP.

Growth should ensure social inclusion. This needs human capital development so as to provide opportunities for all to participate in economic activities without discrimination. Hence, job creation, which is one of SDGs, is an essential ingredient of inclusive growth. A structural transformation of the economy would be required to achieve such broad-based growth. As this is a long-term process, the government needs to adopt interim measures to minimize unequal distribution of the benefits of growth. In this regard, it is crucial to execute progressive taxation enabling to levy larger proportions of taxes from high-income earners than it does from low-income earners.

3. Inclusive Growth Gaps in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has achieved a moderate GDP growth rate of around 5 percent during the last two decades, and the annual growth rate has come down to around 3.5 percent at present. While the growth process has led to a reduction in unemployment and poverty to a certain extent, the pace and the pattern of growth were not sufficient to generate productive employment for all segments of the population and thereby to income inequality. The average poverty level for entire island has declined. But living standards still remain low due to low incomes. Around 40 percent of the population live below a daily income of less than \$ 2.75 (Rs. 225) a day. Incidence of poverty is high in the districts of Mulativu,

Monaragala, Mannar, Batticalaloo and Killinochchi. The estate sector continues to remain poorer. The rural sector which is the home for over three quarters of the population consisted of 85 percent of the country's total number of poor people. Poverty is higher among the young. Around 45 percent of the bottom 40 percent is below 25 years of old, compared with only 38 percent of the top 60 percent. Lower education attainment is another characteristic of the poor.

In spite of economic growth, income inequality remains a major socioeconomic problem in Sri Lanka. The average daily per capita income of the poorest 10 percent of the population amounts to only around \$ 0.50, which is much lower than the globally accepted poverty threshold of \$ 1.25 a day. At the other extreme, the richest 10 percent of the population received a daily per capita income of around \$ 12. The extent of the income disparity is reflected in the fact that the poorest 20 percent of the population receive around 4 percent of the total income while the richest 20 percent enjoy an exorbitant income share of 55 percent.

Although the average unemployment rate in Sri Lanka declined over the years, high unemployment is prevalent among females and the educated youth. Unemployment is also fairly high, particularly in the agricultural sector. The unemployment pressure has been somewhat mitigated by outward migrant workers and large public sector employment. Low labour productivity is a major hindrance to improve competitiveness in Sri Lanka.

4. Sri Lanka in the International Context.

Despite the worldwide consensus on inclusive growth as a more appropriate approach of development, a systematic framework has not evolved yet to guide the policymakers in this direction. In order to fill this gap, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has taken the initiative to provide a practical guide for policymakers and stakeholders through its annual Inclusive Growth and Development Report. It introduces a comparative database for the most relevant policy domains for inclusive growth and key national indicators to track the progress. Using these data, the following two sections examine the relative position of Sri Lanka.

The Inclusive Development Index (IDI) compiled by WEF provides benchmarking to rank countries based on their inclusiveness in economic development; IDI consists of three components, namely (a) growth and development, (b) inclusion, and (c) equity and sustainability. In terms of IDI, Sri Lanka is ranked 40th out of 103 countries in 2018. It ranks above India and Pakistan but lower than Nepal and Bangladesh in the South Asian region. In the East Asian countries many countries including Malaysia and Thailand are ranked much higher.

Sri Lanka's performance is more or less equivalent to East Asian countries with regard to life expectancy indicating the effectiveness of free health facilities offered since Independence. The net income distribution in Sri Lanka too is much better compared with India and Pakistan, but the country's wide income disparities cannot be underestimated as explained in the previous section.

However, Sri Lanka's growth performance is disappointing in comparison with the East Asian region as reflected in the much lower per capita GDP. The relatively higher poverty rate and the lower median income are a reflection of unequal distribution of the benefits of economic growth. Sri

Lanka has the highest public debt to GDP ratio among the selected countries indicating fiscal and debt sustainability risks. The increasing trend in the dependency ratio owing to ageing of population also poses a threat to income growth and equity.

The success of inclusive growth depends on a variety of policy domains and institutional factors including education and skills, basic services, corruption, financial inclusion, asset building, employment and fiscal policy. The desired policy and institutional structures depend on the conditions of each country.

On the labour supply side, education could play a key role in providing opportunities for all to gain productive employment and to actively participate in the growth process in the prospective knowledge economy. Individuals' health and other productivity attributes are also crucial for gainful employment. On the labour demand side, new job opportunities should be available in the production sectors to absorb the educated and skilled labour force. This depends heavily on the capacity of the economy to create productive employment avenues by moving to advanced technology and innovation-based production processes.

5. Innovation for Inclusive Growth

Taking into account the critical role of science, technology and innovation (STI) in the growth process, innovation has been placed as one of the goals in SDGs. Sri Lanka has lagged behind in using technology and innovation in its production process mainly due to the low priority given to technology-oriented education and research and development (R&D) over the last several decades.

Sri Lanka's growth setback has been mainly due to the failure to achieve technology and innovation-driven growth towards a knowledge economy which would have propelled export-led growth. A knowledge economy is all about creating, disseminating, and using knowledge to accelerate economic growth and development. It consists of individuals, companies and sectors that create, develop and commercialize innovative products and export them across the world.

As Sri Lanka has continuously relied on factor-driven growth with relatively cheap labour as the key growth driver, she has failed to graduate to a knowledge-based product phase as in the case of East Asian economies. Accelerating economic growth through knowledge-based human capital is the way to rescue the country from what is known as the 'middle income trap'.

A successful knowledge economy is characterized by close links with science and technology, and high priority placed on innovation for economic growth as well as for export competitiveness. R&D is a key driver of knowledge economy. Sri Lanka has made very little progress in transiting towards knowledge economy, whereas the fast-growing Asian countries such as Japan, South Korea, China, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand have performed much better.

Sri Lanka's position in the country ranking in terms of the Knowledge Economy Index (KEI) compiled by the World Bank is not very satisfactory. She is placed at the 101st position out of 142 countries in the latest ranking for the year 2012 for which the latest data are available. In the performance score schedule ranging from 0 (=lowest) to 10 (=highest), the KEI for Sri Lanka is only 3.63 as against very

high scores recorded for fast growing East Asian countries. This indicates that Sri Lanka has to take huge strides to evolve a modern knowledge-based economy.

Weak economic management coupled with institutional failures have restrained GDP growth in Sri Lanka. The country's outmoded education system is not geared to produce the necessary human resources for a knowledge-driven economy. It has been difficult to retain the talented scientists (produced at the expense of public funds) within the country due to factors such as low remunerations and the lack of opportunities for scientific research. The country does not have a conducive innovation environment which would have led to acquire international patent rights or to generate new products. Information technology, particularly in the software field, is yet to be developed to reach international standards.

The policies adopted so far have been biased towards 'inward orientation' that has led to develop sectors engaged in producing non-tradable goods and services such as construction and finance vis-à-vis the exports. The export sector has been continuing to rely on primary type of industries, mainly on the apparel industry. Apart from the policy drawbacks, this reflects the lack of innovative capabilities as well as poor commitment on the part of export-oriented companies to diversify their industrial structure with high-tech products. Foreign investors do not show much interest in setting up such sophisticated industries. In contrast, many fast growing East Asian countries shifted to high-tech products since the 1970s when they lost comparative advantage in low-tech products such as garments.

Such product shift has not materialized in Sri Lanka due to inadequate technological progress. In the circumstances, high-tech exports account for only 0.6 per cent of total manufactured exports in Sri Lanka, compared with the corresponding ratios of 29 per cent in Malaysia, 23 per cent in South Korea, 24 per cent in China, 15 percent in Japan and 5 per cent in India.

While innovations are essential to accelerate economic growth, it is equally important to ensure that they are inclusive. Inclusive innovation is one that leads to affordable access to quality goods and services for the poor on a sustainable basis and with extensive outreach. Inclusive innovations are those that improve the welfare of low-income earners and excluded groups not only by enabling them to raise their consumption but also providing avenues for them to participate in economic activities. Mobile phones and their applications are examples of inclusive innovations. Reduced production costs and efficiency have enabled the producers of such innovative products to reach the growing markets largely consisting of the poor and middle classes.

In view of problems such as information gaps, lack of access to expertise, knowledge and finance and market failures, the excluded groups might not be able to harness the benefits of innovation. Hence, it might be necessary to introduce an "inclusive innovation strategy", which consists a set of policies that connects excluded populations to a country's innovation system. It would complement frontier innovation by increasing the purchasing power and enhancing income-generating opportunities for the poor.

6. Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion, defined as the process of ensuring timely delivery of financial services at affordable cost to disadvantaged section of the society, is increasingly recognized in recent times as a major factor in accelerating economic growth and reducing poverty and inequality. In line with the expansion of the bank network throughout the country, an increase in banking habits among low-income households is evident in Sri Lanka.

While the financial sector reforms implemented since the late 1980s helped to improve financial access at the macro level, it is observed that the vulnerable groups at the low end of income levels face hardships in accessing finance in the banking system due to barriers such as the lack of regular employment and collateral. Microfinance has emerged as a less stringent institutional mechanism in the rural sector to overcome such barriers by way of providing group credit to the poor particularly among females. This has helped them not only to engage in income generating economic activities but also to smoothen their consumption.

However the microfinance sector needs to be streamlined with capacity building and appropriate regulations. As most microfinance clients are engaged in cottage-type enterprises such as sewing, basic food making and small farming, they are unable to cross the poverty line with a sustained increase in incomes. Strategies need to be devised to give them opportunities to shift to production modes with modern technology and innovations.

7. Conclusion

The notion of growth has shifted from the traditionally defined GDP growth to broad-based growth emphasizing the need to make growth socially inclusive. Despite the success in achieving the MDGs and the progress that is being made to materialize SDGS of the UN, problems of poverty, income inequality and unemployment remain as some of the key socioeconomic problems in Sri Lanka reflecting the gaps in realizing socially inclusive growth. This means that the bulk of the population at the low-income end have been excluded from economic activities and as a result, they continue to remain poor. In other words, benefits of growth have been largely accrued to the rich.

In terms of inclusive growth indicators, Sri Lanka is ranked low in comparison with the East Asian countries. In order to overcome these deficiencies, redesigning of public policies is essential in the areas of health, education, macroeconomic management, taxation, infrastructure, labour market, financial inclusion and corruption. It is also crucial to revive the national planning mechanism to achieve the goals of economic progress, social equity and environmental sustainability in partnership with the private sector.

“Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”

GAMINI KUDALIYANAGE,

MBA, BA (Hons) Economics, BA (Gen), FCIMgt (UK), MRES (UK), SLeA(SL)

Institutional Strengthening Specialist

“Sustainable water resources are essential to human health, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity. This vital resource is under threat, making it crucial to address the challenges related to water, sanitation and hygiene for populations and water-related ecosystems. Currently, more than 2 billion people are affected by water stress, which will only increase with population growth and the effects of climate change. Achieving universal access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene and ensuring that services are safely managed remain major challenges, and meeting them are crucial to further progress in health, education and poverty eradication “ (UN). The Goal 6 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is focusing on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for the people and to the water-related ecosystems. Sustainable management of water will facilitate achieving all the other SDGs. “Water is vital for human survival, health and dignity and a fundamental resource for human development. The principle water difficulty today is not one of absolute scarcity, but rather of distribution and resources.” (*A Contribution of the Delegation of the Holy See on the occasion of the third world water forum (Kyoto, 16th-23rd March 2003)*)

However the world’s freshwater resources are under increasing pressure. Growth in population, increased economic activity and improved standards of living lead to increased competition for, and conflicts over, the limited freshwater resource. Projections indicate that over the next 25 years food will be required for another 2-3 billion people. Water is increasingly seen as a key constraint on food production, equivalent to if not more crucial than land scarcity.

Sri Lanka & Clean Water / Sanitation

Ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene at every level. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems such as forests, mountains, wetlands and rivers is essential if we are to mitigate water scarcity. More international cooperation is also needed to encourage water efficiency and support treatment technologies in developing countries. Sri Lanka has an unique achievement in the clean water and sanitation area and in 2016 managed to achieve 88.8% of households access to safe drinking water. In the sanitation facilities are concerned 87% of the population possess onsite sanitation facilities. However the wastewater disposal area only 2% households currently have piped sewerage connections. The rest of the households dispose wastewater using onsite pits within the premises which could lead to various environmental and health issues, especially contamination of ground water. The situation is particularly problematic in densely populated urban and sub urban areas.

Sri Lanka scaling up their approach to Clean Water & Sanitation

Sri Lankan government has undertaken bold step in implementing the Mahaweli Water Security Investment Program (MWSIP) which is the final stage of the Mahaweli Development Plan, a multi sector development of the water and land resources of Mahaweli River Basin and North Central

Province. This is the end point of an investment program that has spanned more than six decades and has been pivotal in meeting national development goals of food security, social development, energy production, drinking water and environmental protection. The updated MDP will address the government's sector priorities by constructing the North Central Province Canal Project (NCPCP), an outstanding component of MDP that is estimated to cost USD 1.64 billion.

Managing quality and environmental sustainability of water bodies

Water quality and other environmental qualities in Sri Lanka are being managed as per the National Environmental Act (1980) and subsequent amendments (1988 and 2000). The lead agency is the Central Environmental Authority (CEA), which is responsible for habitat protection to avoid ecosystem degradation and maintenance of water quality. Nonetheless, there are other "water resource" protection duties included in several other acts related to other institutions, so within the legal framework there exist some overlaps. The control mechanism of CEA extends to approximately 25 sampling points in rivers and larger water bodies concentrated entirely in the Western province.

Institutional Arrangements for Water Resources in Sri Lanka

The present institutional arrangements for water resource management in Sri Lanka include numerous organizations with mandates and responsibilities for the development and management of the water resources. These are in many cases overlapping. Despite public ownership, there is not a single custodian for the natural water resource in Sri Lanka. For example, the irrigation sector is handled by two main cabinet ministries at the national level, namely the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources Management (MIWRM) and Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE), while the nine Provincial Ministries in Provincial Councils (PCs) deal with the same subject separately within their own provinces. In the constitution, it is stated that water is a provincial matter unless there are trans boundary deliberations, but in practice Irrigation Department (ID) is continue to manage water within provinces, mainly due to lack of capacity at provincial level. At national, provincial and district levels there is somewhere of the order of 42 government and semi-government institutions and more than 50 legal instruments dealing with subjects relating to the water in Sri Lanka. These organizations have evolved under different historical backgrounds to fulfill the needs of the day. Their intervention in the water sector may be at the same or different levels and in the same or a different form.

Institutional Considerations

The Water Management Secretariat (WMS), which functions under the administration of the Mahaweli Authority, can be said to be an enabling institution for decision-making to share water among different users and different organizations. However, it has not been expanded substantially to absorb the requirements of the changing environment in Sri Lanka and being a non-political body it performs only the role as a coordinator in water sharing within parts of Sri Lanka. So as long as WMS is attached to a specific ministry, it cannot be accepted as a national policy-maker and a regulator due to the presumed conflict of interest created by such an institutional ministerial affiliation. WMS could possibly be upgraded (and renamed to Water Resource Commission) and detached from the Mahaweli Authority to assume the role of policy maker and regulator. It should determine the sharing and allocation of water among multiple uses and users in ways that are equitable, efficient and sustainable throughout Sri Lanka. Currently, there is no overall consistent legislation of water and administration of a water rights or water users system. Like air, water is a resource that transcends society's boundaries and surface

watersheds and groundwater aquifers cross private property borders as well as national administrative boundaries. The mandates of existing sectoral agencies need to be re-examined in order to sharpen the regulatory role of the government. The mandates of sectoral agencies should also address issues such as water sharing, conjunctive use and basin management. Furthermore, the roles and responsibilities of the existing water agencies would have to be re-oriented to reflect their revised mandates of service delivery and to keep such functions separated from resource management functions (policy and regulation), as otherwise the present scenario of unclear and overlapping institutional roles and responsibilities will be maintained and this has badly affected the water sector in Sri Lanka.

Technical Considerations and Recommendations

As there has been a general perception of water abundance in the past (at least in the central and southern parts), Sri Lanka's legal framework have never reflected any serious urgency for conservation. Hence, use of water has evolved over the last two centuries as if water had relative little cost and it was easy available. However, in large parts of the northern dry zone, farmers is struggling with receiving sufficient amount of water during the cultivation season and for drinking water, due to impact of climate change. So also considering the increasing population, the water abundance is clearly not be the reality anymore and the legal framework for the water sector must encourage desirable activities and prevent or discourage undesirable conduct of general excessive and unnecessary use of water. It is recommended to include demand management within the water resources legislation with specific measures which are socially and culturally suitable for the Sri Lankan setting to efficiently fill this void of legal regulation.

The maintenance of stream flows in keeping minimum water levels for in stream uses is being ensured by CEA through various approval procedures. A percentage of the flowing water in streams must be dedicated to the environment for fish and stream reservations. Hence environmental concerns such as the loss of biodiversity, salinity intrusion and seasonal drying up of wetlands might be a consequence if this is not applied efficiently. It is recommended to investigate further on the actual implementation of CEA instructions as per recognition of the environment as a legitimate user of water.

It has been well documented that the amount of agrochemicals used during the cultivation season in many parts of Sri Lanka is excessive. The combination of the expansion of irrigated area under the Mahaweli Development Program¹ and the risk of a continuation of this excessive and uncontrolled use of agrochemicals possesses a serious threat to general public health and possible wide spread chronic kidney disease in these areas. It is recommended to include additional efforts under the MDP/NCPCP to ensure this potentially negative impact is dealt and minimized to the far extent possible. This could include initial situation studies, discussions with stakeholders and the agrochemical industry, support to widespread campaigning and implementation of remedial action based on learning from the Wasa Visa Nethi Ratak program.

(The contents of this document contains only his personal views and not the views of any organisation where he is / was working)

The People's Process to Development

Urban Development in Sri Lanka

By Ranmini Gunasekara

"Housing not only provides protection from the elements but also shelters all the factors that go to improve the quality of life of individuals, who form the families. Families make up society, and societies build up to nations. Nations finally constitute the global community. That is why I consider housing to be not only a basic human need but also a key to human development. In essence; housing is central to the fulfillment of man's aspirations to a better life."

– President Ranasinghe Premadasa (1985)

As a wise leader once said, housing is a basic human need and is a key factor for human development. However, what happens when 'development' itself gets in the way of housing? This is the modern day predicament of Sri Lanka's capital city, where rapid urbanization and 'development' as we know it has led to countless evictions and human displacement, particularly amongst Colombo's impoverished communities.

Soon after the end of the civil war in 2009, successive governments started many unplanned mega infrastructure development projects for the 'beautification' of Colombo. Unfortunately, it was Colombo's urban communities that had to pay the ugly price.

According to the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) report on Forced Evictions in Colombo, the Urban Development Authority (UDA) had a target of relocating more than 70,000 to 135,000 families; which is around 280,000 to 500,000 people.

Under the Urban Regeneration Project of the UDA, these identified communities who are also classified as Undeserved Settlements (USS) by authorities, have been relocated to high-rise apartments towards the North of Colombo.

However, there is much that has gone unsaid in this endeavor. For an average onlooker, the Urban Regeneration Project paints a picture of a humane initiative that aims at providing permanent housing for the urban poor in illegal settlements. Yet most are unaware that these apartments are not given freely, and there is a rent charged from every family. Moreover, some of these families possessed multiple storey houses along with deeds to their land.

Furthermore, the UDA's attempt at regeneration does not take into consideration the socio-economic factors involved in relocating these families. According to the CEPA report on Forced Evictions in Colombo, a 2010 study of 'Sahaspura', a tower block complex in North-east Colombo, housing families relocated from USS's has concluded that the "relocation project failed to achieve its targets largely because the resettlement process did not address the disruption of social fabric and did not incorporate strategies to prevent social disarticulation. Also, it did not address other socioeconomic aspects such as livelihoods of non-regular income earners and their access to credit."

Many of these people work as cleaners, housemaids, drivers, and vendors, who provide essential services to the city. However, their jobs are heavily location sensitive, and relocation to a different part of Colombo would adversely affect their livelihoods. For instance, a woman working as a housemaid would take longer travel to her respective houses once relocated whilst a vendor having a small shop on the roadside would lose his business all-together after the demolition of their neighborhood, this loss of income can in turn affect the family unit as a whole and alter their development journeys.

However, State response to these issues were radically different in the 1980's. Under late President Ranasinghe Premadasa, the country's housing policy underwent a complete transformation, where people were placed at the heart of development, leading to the birth of the 'People's Process'.

Launched in 1984, the Million Houses Programme was a landmark initiative where the Government offered maximum support for housing, whilst playing a minimum role of intervention. The programme's urban component, the Urban Housing Sub Programme (UHSP), focused on improving low income settlements, by treating these communities as an important part of the city.

The lessons learnt from the People's Process in the Million Houses Programme, were later on exported to other counties by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). This process of placing people at the center of their own development has now been used in countries such as Nepal Mongolia, Japan, Philippines, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar and Namibia.

Unfortunately, when many other countries are learning from Sri Lanka's past, local governments have chosen to ignore the island's legacy and has instead resorted to applying haphazard, broad brushed solutions to Colombo's housing issue.

'Sustainable Cities and Communities' is the 11th Goal, in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) set by the United Nations. This target which is set to be achieved by 2030 requires ensuring safe and affordable housing to people in urban cities.

Whilst Sri Lanka has commendably achieved its Millennium Development Goals, will it succeed in achieving this particular SDG if the State stubbornly continues to drive people out of the city for its 'development'? Or is it time to look back and learn from the past where the State developed the city hand in hand with its own people?

Our sincere appreciation and thanks to Mr. Sumathi Fernando, Assistant Secretary General who has ungrudgingly devoted his time in compiling the Annual 2018, and to the learned contributors who have demonstrated their scholarship in providing articles. We also wish to thank for the contribution made by our valuable sponsors to the annual.

Thank You ! 

Mr. Dharmadasa Vitharana

Editor

United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

2030 Agenda

Are we really on track?

Is political turmoil and country First attitudes undermining the momentum?

The High Level Political Forum conducted recently ended in a somewhat positive note with the ministerial declaration getting adopted with 164 countries in favour and only two countries against. However, concerns have been expressed in many fronts. The declaration itself indicated the need for further improvement. Even the Secretary General in his concluding comments expressed concerns of back tracking instead of improving. Even a study conducted by the ESCAP for Asia and the Pacific has identified specific areas that has back tracked. There seems to be many reasons for not been able to maintain the momentum required to proceed towards achieving the goals of the Agenda. It would be necessary therefore to examine the reasons why there had been back tracking and an inability to maintain the momentum.

Political Turmoil

It is very clear that peace and security in the whole world is an essential pre requisite for any type of inclusive development. One important factor in the 2030 Agenda is sustainable and inclusive development without 'leaving anyone behind'. Therefore peace and security is a crucial factor for any type of development. In fact the basic objective of the United Nations is to maintain global peace and security and to take collective measures for prevention and removal of threats to security. The preamble of the 2030 Agenda also stated that there can be "No sustainable development without peace" and "No peace without sustainable development".

In spite of all actions carried out by the UN in the various fronts, working under severe constraints, conflicts resulting from political turmoil have escalated in many parts of the world. In the Middle East, there are many areas with continuing armed conflicts and also some in northern Africa. In most cases, parties involved in the conflicts are been supported implicitly by other countries not only from the region but also from the other areas. There are situations when both parties involved in the conflicts are supported by advance countries. As a result, some of these conflicts have become proxy wars with no early settlement in sight. There in a large numbers of displaced population having to be accommodated in temporary shelters of various types. This creates situation severe burden on the countries involved in the conflict. They have to seek assistance from third parties to provide food and accommodation for the displaced population. Deterioration of the levels of peace and security in many areas of the world is having a direct impact on all countries in proceeding with the 2030 Agenda for SDGs. One of the main aspirations was to create situation where 'no one is left behind'. But the achievement of these objective takes a secondary role when countries are burdened with immediate

problems relating to displaced population who are not only displaced but are not contributing to any economic activity. They have to be fed with state expenses without them being able to contribute in any manner.

Migration

This situation has resulted in a tendency for increases in the levels of migration to countries which are relatively free of conflicts. Migration from the Middle East and northern Africa to Europe has escalated over time. Even though some countries in Europe are prepared to accept a reasonable number of migrants continued escalation in armed conflicts has resulted in an increase in the number of unauthorized migration to Europe. This type of migration is also taking place in other countries as well.

Countries in the southern Europe are faced with problems related to unauthorized migration and in a situation of this nature, countries that are involved in the conflicts and also the countries which are burdened with large number of unauthorized migrants will have to sort these problems out in the first instance and the emphasis of achieving SDGs will have to take a secondary role. Even though many countries are trying their best to stick to their commitments, these additional burdens of having to feed displaced population creates new problems making it very difficult to stick to the norms of "no one being left behind"

Country First attitudes

In addition there is strong trend to move away from multilateralism towards country centered decision making in many advanced countries. This has resulted policies and actions which are detrimental to the expansion of global trade and cooperation.

We must recollect the situation that prevailed in the inter war period when there was no proper global mechanism to regulate trade and finance. Unilateral action in the field of trade and finance resulted finally in an economic depression in the early 1930s. But after the end of the World War 2, multilateralism was brought for the forefront in political, economic and social activities. The United Nations was established in 1945 as a forum for discussion of political issues and to act as an organization to maintain peace and security. In addition many other organizations were formed as subsidiaries of the UN to cater for various special needs. Other organizations were formed to supervise and regulate multilateral economic activities essentially trade and finance. International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were formed to regulate finances and the General Agreement for Trade and Tariff (GATT), which was later transformed into World Trade Organization (WTO) to regulate trade. It is clear that economic growth since World War 2 was more orderly, devoid of wide fluctuations due to the supervisory role played by these organizations in the field of trade and finance

However in the recent past there had been some tendencies to move away from multilateralism towards country centered decisions making. The America first initiative of the USA has pushed multilateralism to a back stage. There had been tariff increases based on unilateral decision without reference to the WTO. This has resulted in retaliatory increases of tariffs by many developed countries inclusive of EU, Canada and China. USA has also expressed their intention to move away from the WTO without providing an opportunity to other countries to let the WTO decide on the justification for such tariffs. All countries appear to be moving toward

a trade war with other countries without working with the available regulatory mechanism. This type of trade war may lead to a contraction of levels of international trade and decline in the levels of levels of economic growth. This may impact all other countries and impact in variably be severe on developing countries and small players in the international trade scene. The decision by the UK to move away from the European Union has also been a threat to growth of multilateral trade relations. All these factors taken together may result in a decline in the levels of growth in the world economy. Even now, preliminary statistical measures of decline in the global trade which would result from tariff escalation have been prepared.

It appears clearly that the current volatile atmosphere is not at all conducive for a smooth progress of SDGs towards 2030 Agenda. Therefore when SDGs are taken up for review in September 2019 under the auspices of the General Assemble of the UN by all heads of State and Government, it may be necessary to examine the goals and the targets of the SDGs carefully and see whether any changes or amendments are necessary to the 2030 agenda and what further action would be necessary.

Sumathi Nimal Fernando



United Nations Association of Sri Lanka
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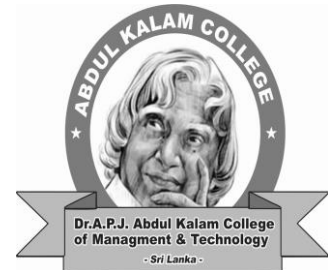
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Commemoration of 85th Birth anniversary of UNASL Founder Secretary General



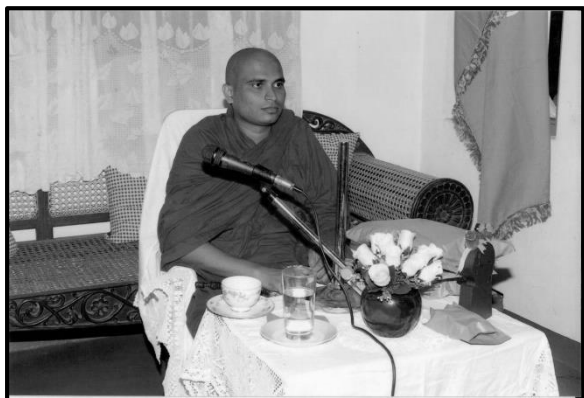
The UNASL in coordination with the Kumaran Fernando Foundation commemorated the 85th birth anniversary of the founder Secretary General Mr. Kumaran Fernando who passed away in 2010.

Mr. Fernando who played an important role in the establishment of the UNASL in 1950 was its Secretary General since 1976. He along with few others were instrumental in establishing the UNASL in 1950 even before Sri Lanka was admitted to the United Nations. He initiated lot of activities through the UNASL such as the Annual Observance of the UN Day, publication of an Annual on the occasion and establishing students Study Circles to disseminate information relating to functions and activities of the United Nations.

In recognitions of the important role played by late Mr. Fernando annual commemoration activities are organized by the UNASL with the help of the Kumaran Fernando Foundation.

This year, activities commenced with an eye clinic and a medical clinic organized with the assistance of the Lion's Club of Panadura. Eye Clinic was conducted for nearly 100 persons needing eye treatment and spectacles were provided free of charge with lion's club assistance. A health clinic to check blood pressure and blood sugar was also conducted.

In the evening a BANA Sermon was conducted by Ven. Panadura Wijithananda Thero, chief incumbent of the Sri Vijaya Saugatha Vidya Pirivena, Panadura to bestow merits to late Mr. Fernando. Members of the UNASL and Kumaran Fernando Foundation were present in large numbers.



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01st Place

-

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Second row (from the left) :- Ms. G.OT.C. Gawthamadasa, Ms. K.A.R. Kaluarachchi, Ms. R.M.L.G. Rathnadoowa, Ms. P.A.R.N. Wijegunawardana, Ms. H.S.D. Piyarathna, Ms. A.A.U.S. Amarakoon

02nd Place

-

VIJAYA VIDYALAYA, MATALE


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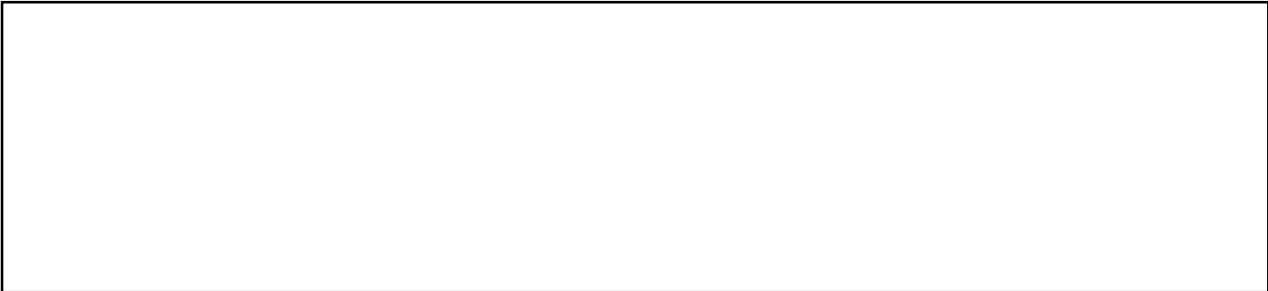
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04th Place

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Vijaya Vidyalaya, Matale



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3rd Place - Tharushi Anjali Opatha
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4th Place - V. Senuri Ruwanthika
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- 2nd Place** - **Sanuka Dulmina Wijesuriya**
Mahinda College, Galle
- 3rd Place** - **R. H. Ranuda Thewnidu**
St. Aloysius College, Galle
- 4th Place** - **Didulaka Rashmina Senarath**
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- 2nd Place** - **D. Renuka Weerakon**
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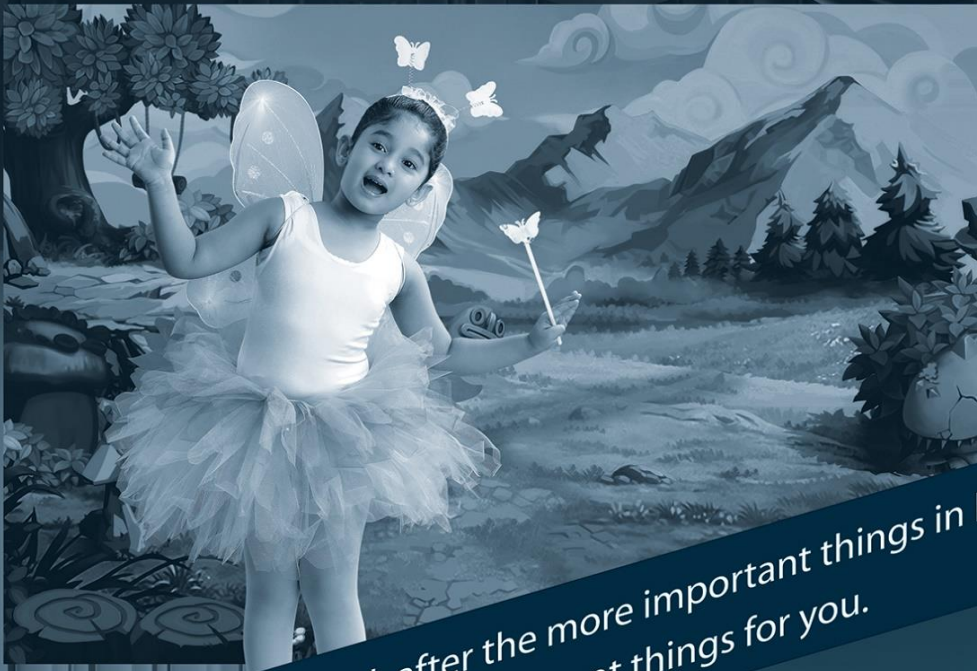
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