



Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations



President Sirisena Addresses the 71st UN General Assembly



In his statement, the President told a packed General Assembly that Sri Lanka was committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and assured the international community of Sri Lanka's efforts to consolidate democracy, good governance and rule of law.

See President Sirisena's full speech on page 20 of this issue

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Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera chairs 'Invest in Sustaining Peace-Pledging Conference' at the UN

Sri Lanka co-hosted a Pledging Conference to Re-finance the Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) held on 21 September 2016 at the UN Headquarters in New York on the sidelines of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Sri Lanka, together with Kenya, Mexico, The Netherlands, Somalia, Sweden, Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom co-hosted the event. The conference was able to generate pledges from thirty countries amounting to a sum of US Dollars 152 million to support UN peacebuilding efforts across the globe. Foreign Minister Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, chaired one segment of the conference and delivered closing remarks on behalf of the co hosts. In his national statement delivered at the conference Hon. Mangala Samaraweera noted that Sri Lanka has been working closely with the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) since the Presidential Elections of January 2015, when the Government prioritized reconciliation and development as twin agendas to be pursued in guiding the nation towards durable peace. In his closing remarks on behalf of the co hosts, Minister Samaraweera said that due to the cooperation of member states, the Fund will be able to continue to support critical projects in countries emerging from years of violent conflict and in other countries where peace is fragile and needs to be sustained.



Foreign Minister Hon. Mangala Samaraweera with Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson

Sri Lanka wins award for “Excellence in Human Development Reporting”

Sri Lanka was among four countries that won Awards for Excellence celebrating recent national and regional human development reports that have excelled in crafting and promoting human solutions to development challenges. The human development reporting team of Sri Lanka received the Award of Excellence for its 2014 National Human Development Report entitled: *"Youth and Development : Towards a More Inclusive Future"*.

Chile, Montenegro and Uganda also won awards. The ceremony was held at the United Nations Headquarters on 6 December 2016. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway was the chief guest at the event. Mr. Jorn Sorensen, Country Director for UNDP and Ms. Sonali Dayaratne, Policy Specialist, UNDP Country Office accepted the award on behalf of the reporting team.



Permanent Representative H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera with Mr. Jorn Sorensen, Country Director for UNDP and Ms. Sonali Dayaratne, Policy Specialist, UNDP Country Office

Sri Lanka addresses meeting in observance of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People at the UNGA

Ambassador and Permanent Representative Dr. Amrith Rohan Perera, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, addressed the UN General Assembly at a special meeting convened to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November 2016. The Ambassador said that the International Day of Solidarity reminds the world of the urgent need to find a just and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine, and most importantly to address the plight of the Palestinian people, particularly its children, and to provide for their humanitarian needs.



H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera sits at the head table in his capacity as Chairperson of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Sri Lanka Mission hosts side event on *Youth Boosting the Promotion and Implementation of the SDGs* at the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York hosted a side event entitled *Youth Boosting the Promotion and Implementation of the SDGs* on 10 November 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters.

The side event, which focused on the role of youth in boosting the promotion and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, was co-sponsored by Soka Gakkai International (SGI) and Earth Charter International (ECI).

The event was attended by a large number of youth, members of civil society as well as representatives from the New York based Permanent Missions.

The side event, which was held as an interactive panel discussion, focused on the unique role youth can play in realizing the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the obstacles young people expect to encounter in playing that role and how to solve those obstacles so that youth can realize their full potential to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

The panel consisted of Dr. David Nabarro, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the 2030 Agenda, Ambassador Sabarullah Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Ms. Saskia Schellekens, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and Ms. Sofia Garcia of SOS Children's Villages. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Maher Nasser, Director, Outreach Division of the United Nations Department of Public Information. Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka Ambassador Sabarullah Khan delivered opening remarks.

Sri Lanka Mission hosts Forum on International Post-Disaster Recovery & Relief

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York hosted a Forum entitled: *International Post-Disaster Recovery and Relief: Why Social Work Matters* on 28 October 2016 at its premises.

The Forum, which focused on the role of the social worker in a post-disaster scenario, particularly in providing relief and long-term recovery, was co-hosted by the Council on Global Social Issues of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), a non-profit national association representing more than 2500 individual members as well as graduate and undergraduate programmes of professional social work education.

It was attended by a large number of social work students and faculty from higher education institutes of the Tri-State area as well as representatives from the New York based Permanent Missions.

The Forum had extensive interactive discussions on gender and women's issues in post-disaster situations, community social work approaches in rebuilding lives after disasters and new challenges for social work in post-disaster scenarios such as social sustainability and child trauma.



H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera delivering the opening remarks

Diplomatic Relations

Sri Lanka and Monaco Establish Diplomatic Relations



H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera and H.E. Mrs. Isabelle Picco sign the Joint Communiqué as Mr. Niluka Kadurugamuwa, Minister Counsellor of the Mission (Standing Right) looks on

Sri Lanka and Monaco established formal diplomatic relations on 26 July 2016 at the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York. H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and his Monaco counterpart H.E. Mrs. Isabelle Picco signed the Joint Communiqué establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Sri Lanka and Andorra Establish Diplomatic Relations

Sri Lanka and Andorra established formal diplomatic relations on the 30 November, 2016. H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and his Andorran counterpart H.E. Mrs. Elisenda Vives Balmaña signed the Joint Communiqué establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, at the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York.



H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera and H.E. Mrs. Elisenda Vives Balmaña sign the Joint Communiqué as Mr. Madhuka Wickramarachchi, First Secretary of the Mission (Standing Right) looks on

Seminar on the Impact of Education in the Implementation of the SDGs

Education

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY co-hosted a seminar on education titled the *Role of Education in the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda* at the Mission premises on 25 May 2016. The discussion addressed innovative education concepts and solutions to build sustainable communities and global citizens. Speakers drew on lessons from Tanzania, Sri Lanka, United States of America and elsewhere to explore ways and means of bridging the economic and digital divide, by working with youth and adults, to increase literacy and technical skills, to em-

power marginalized communities, to allow for entrepreneurship and artistic expression and in doing so, to ensure that no one is left behind.

Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador Sabarullah Khan, in his welcome address, noted that education was



Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Ambassador A. S. Khan, delivers the welcome address

essential to achieving all of the new Sustainable Development Goals. Referring to Sri Lanka's own experience, Ambassador Khan said that Sri Lanka has a history of literacy rates and educational attainment levels rising steadily after Sri Lanka became an independent nation in 1948, and today, the youth literacy rate stands at 97 percent. Mr. Khan further said that in order to address the root causes of conflict, Sri Lanka was committed to the

idea of education as a means of social cohesion.

Speakers at the seminar included Ms. Marie Paule Roudil, Director of UNESCO Liaison Office in New York, Mr. Narinder Kakar, Permanent Observer of the University of Peace to the United Nations, Ms. La Neice Collins, Communications Officer for the United Nations Academic Impact, Ms. Paige Propper-Sanborn, Co-founder and President of the Zariki Nursery and Primary School in Tanzania, Ms. Lirone Glikman, Founder and Innovator of Global Impact Alliances Project, and Mr. Iran Nazario, Director of Peacebuilders and Community Relations at COMPASS youth Collaborative. The Seminar was moderated by Ms. Sonali Samarasinghe, Minister Counsellor of the Sri Lanka-Mission.



Co-Chairs of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY deliver opening remarks



A section of the audience at the event

Environment

Sri Lanka co-hosts Coastline Erosion Side Event at the UN

A side event entitled Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations made welcome remarks. Mr. Peter Kenilorea, representative of the UN High Representative to the United Nations was held on 20 January 2016 at the UN Headquarters with the participation of a large number of Permanent Representatives, senior diplomats and members of civil society.

The side event organized with a view to creating awareness on the issue of coastal erosion and its impacts on climate change was also co-sponsored by the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) and NGO Sustainability, a non-governmental organization on Climate Change and Sustainability issues.

Ambassador Rohan Perera,



Dr. Rohan Perera, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka, addresses the gathering

representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land Locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and Ms. Roma Stibravy, President of NGO Sustainability also spoke.

In his welcome statement, Ambassador Perera remarked that it is extremely timely to focus on coastline erosion, a problem that is common to every country with a coastline, and its impact on climate change, particularly in the context of the recently concluded Paris Agree-

ment on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Gregory J. Sarno, President of the Coastline Recovery Foundation made a presentation on coastal erosion and climate change, and the new technologies available to mitigate the effects of coastal erosion.

The discussion that followed the statements and the presentation, focused on the gravity of the issue and shed light on various high technology as well as low-cost traditional options available to face the challenges of coastline erosion. Many in attendance expressed their appreciation to Sri Lanka for taking this initiative.



The Permanent Representative of the Maldives raises a question during the event

Minister of Health invited by World Health Organization to discuss National Action Plan on NCDs

Health

In advance of the third UN High-level Meeting on NCDs in 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) held a side event on the occasion of the ECOSOC High-level Political Forum on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The event was expected to raise the priority given to Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in national Sustainable Development Goal responses. A WHO report highlights that heart disease, cancers, diabetes, and lung diseases are the four non-communicable diseases representing the largest cause of death in people aged under 70, posing a major threat to sus-

tainable development. The goal he said was to reduce premature mortality by 2% every year by establishing primary screening centers at the rate of 1 per 20,000 persons. He also said that comprehensive screening centers at the secondary level, while improving the interventions at the tertiary healthcare institutions and promoting healthy life styles, were also a priority.

Minister Senaratne pointed out that the UN system has supported Sri Lanka in finalising the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan for five years with a set of national NCD reduction targets by prioritising key activities for immediate action. Sri Lanka has now established the National NCD Steering Committee and National Advisory Body which facilitates the implementation of the plan of action across sectors, with accompanying responsibility and accountability by other relevant ministries in promoting healthy life styles.

To loud applause from the audience, minister Senaratne revealed

that Sri Lanka has made a commitment to become a smoke free nation by 2020 and has already made plans to increase tobacco taxation from 72% to 90%.

He said that legal enforcement of a traffic light system for sugar had also been initiated effective 1 August 2016 and the same would be applied to salt and trans fats.

In conclusion the Minister stated that the government of Sri Lanka was committed to implementing the recommendations made by the UN Task Force on NCDs and looked forward to achieving Sri Lanka's multi-sectoral NCD targets. Sri Lanka he said would report on progress at the United Nations General Assembly 3rd High-level meeting in 2018 which would no doubt contribute to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.



Hon. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, on panel at side event to discuss National Action Plan on NCDs



Panel at the side event on National Action Plan for NCDs

tainable development.

Dr. Rajitha Senaratne in his remarks said that in Sri Lanka NCDs cause 70% of deaths and the probability of dying prema-

International Peace & Security

Former President Chandrika Kumaratunga addresses High Level Thematic Debate on UN, Peace and Security

Chairperson, Office for National Unity and Reconciliation, former president Chandrika Kumaratunga delivered the Sri Lanka statement on International Peace and Security at the UN headquarters in New York.

Former President Kumaratunga was in New York to attend the High Level Thematic Debate on UN, Peace and Security, titled: *In a World of Risks: A New Commitment for Peace* taking place on 10 and 11 May at the Trusteeship Council, UN Headquarters.

In her statement Mrs. Kumaratunga said that Sri Lanka wholeheartedly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, stating it was a scourge extending beyond national borders.

"Terrorism has become today, the single most terrifying and destructive phenomenon of our modern world. As a victim of the horrors of terrorist violence, Sri Lanka understands the national and international challenges posed by terrorist politics, and we encourage genuine efforts to strengthen the UN system, its reach and effectiveness in addressing this issue" she said.

"Countering threats from terrorist organizations would only deal with the outward manifestation of the problem. In responding to the chal-

lenges to peace and security, one must adopt a holistic view and look deep into their genesis and causes. Work by scholars confirms that the principal cause of dissent and violent conflict is the existence of social, economic and political inequalities and marginalization."

Mrs. Kumaratunga offered Sri



Former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga delivers address at plenary debate of the UN General Assembly on UN, Peace and Security

Lanka as a beacon of hope to the world as the international community faces one of its most complex challenges.

"Sri Lanka", she said, "has been able to emerge from a dark period of conflict. Since January 2015, a new president and a national unity government has been elected, committed to democratic values, and to moving forward as an engaged member of the world community. In coordination with UN agencies and our many friends in the international community, we have already started taking steps aimed at achieving meaningful rec-

onciliation, strengthening democratic institutions, good governance, the restoration of the rule of law, political power sharing and confidence building among communities affected by conflict for many years. We have renewed our commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment."

"Yes, we are in a world of risks," she concluded, "and given the threats we face today, there is no time more urgent than now to muster the political will to meet these challenges.

"We are already seized of the building blocks to formulate a comprehensive response to these threats to international peace and security. I offer our own experiences in Sri Lanka as a measure of hope for the world as we face these threats together" Mrs. Kumaratunga said.

She was also the main speaker and panelist at an Interactive Session titled *Leading by Example: Innovative Partnerships and Responses*, where she elaborated on Sri Lanka's experiences, its reconciliation mechanisms based on the four pillars of Truth-Seeking, Justice, Reparations and Non-Recurrence, and the work of the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation which she chairs.

Minister Samarawickrama tells New York business community Sri Lanka offers strategic location and an improving investment climate

Investment

The Hon. Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade, Mr. Malik Samarawickrama visited New York from 21-26 April 2016 ahead of the 12th US-Sri Lanka Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council Meeting in Washington which adopted a path breaking Action Plan to boost bilateral trade and investment.

In his interactions with key business organizations and investments companies in New York, Minister Samarawickrama said that Sri Lanka's overall investment climate has been transformed by the end of the civil conflict and recent political developments in the country. The present Unity Government provides a cooperative framework for long overdue reforms, he pointed out.

The Minister said that the government is now taking advantage of this opportunity to reinforce our 68 year old democracy, push through constitutional reform, revive engagement in international affairs and implement the UN Human Rights Council Joint Resolution within the framework of our own constitution as well as our domestic laws and legal processes. Sri Lanka has embarked upon a program to build a private sector driven and export-led economy in which FDI plays a central role, he also said.

"Sri Lanka has considerable potential as a location for investment, as a hub for trade and as an attractive destination for tourism. We are determined to take advantage of this by creating the enabling environment for a business-friendly development model. We are also focusing on empowering our people through upgrading our education, training and development skills to create a human resource base which supports a competitive and rapidly modernizing economy. Our vision involves the private sector being the locomotive for growth and employment creation. Exports and FDI will be key pillars of the new model for increasing growth, employment and incomes" the Minister pointed out.

He also stressed that the government was attaching high priority to improving the business climate, revising investment policies, and addressing the issues of the ease of doing business, trade policy and trade facilitation. A number of one-stop shops are being established to speed up processes and procedures and laws and regulations. Tariffs and para-tariffs are being reviewed to reduce transaction costs and address anti-export biases in the policy framework, the minister said, noting that Sri Lanka offers an extremely strategic location and an improving investment climate.

During his visit to New York, Minister Malik Samarawickrama met with several US investors including the Sri Lanka – US Chamber of Commerce and key sectors of the diaspora. the Hon. Minister also addressed an investment seminar hosted in his honor by the Business Council for International Understanding at the Yale Club and engaged in several bilateral meetings with members of the business community.



Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade, meets with members of the Sri Lankan business community

Law of the Sea

Senior officials of the Sri Lanka Permanent Mission in New York and experts from Sri Lanka actively participated in several important workshops and sessions concerning the Law of the Sea in 2016. Sri Lanka's contributions were appreciated at several conferences including the Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to Conservation and Management of Straddling fish stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks; and the first and Second Sessions of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly Resolution 69/292 for the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). Ms. Tilanie Silva, Assistant Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented Sri Lanka at the BBNJ meetings.

Notably Sri Lanka is also a bureau member of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment.

Sri Lanka calls for data sharing and awareness programs in the push for Sustainable Fisheries

The Workshop to discuss implementation of General Assembly resolution 66/68 on sustainable

Sri Lankan delegate Dr. Prabath Jayasinghe: Senior Scientist at the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency

(NARA) of Sri Lanka, was a panelist for the segment titled: *'focus on the experience and the special requirements of developing States in addressing the impacts of bottom fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks.'* Dr. Jayasinghe elaborated on the main objective of the Sri Lankan program built upon the management, conservation, regulation and development of the fisheries and aquatic resources in the country. As part of Sri Lanka's regulatory framework for the protection of vulnerable ecosystems, a national jurisdiction to regulate bottom fisheries was established through the formation of a

management plan, closure of fishing areas, and the creation of no fishing zones, he said.

The senior scientist also pointed out the need for awareness raising and the engagement of relevant stakeholders in the processes through national workshops etc. He called for the need for marine surveys and stock assessments to discover potential bottom resources and highlighted the need for further financial resources, technical knowledge and an integrated management plan and data sharing at a regional level.



Dr. Prabath Jayasinghe, Senior Scientist, NARA at the UNHQ, New York

fisheries addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 1 and 2 August 2016.



Dr. Prabath Jayasinghe as panelist (4th from the left)

Sri Lanka advocates a Blue Green Era

The Seventh Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 3 to 9 August 2016.

Rear Admiral Rohana Perera, Chairman, Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), represented Sri Lanka. In his national statement on behalf of Sri Lanka, Rear Admiral Rohana Perera spoke on the implementation of the second cycle of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio economic

aspects; and considered regional level activities in this regard. He said that working in collaboration with regional organizations was vital in terms of gathering local expertise and maximizing research and data collection. Conducting regional workshops was a successful method in collecting regional level data and therefore it was vital to provide opportunities to first respondent states to participate in regional workshops for the mutual enhancement of knowledge and awareness he noted. The importance of national focal points for the purpose of improving coordination at the global, regional and national levels and the provision of research platforms and equipment to individual states in strengthen-

ing research and monitoring activities cannot be over emphasised, he also said. The Rear Admiral brought to the attention of the Chair the fact that Sri Lanka was committed to the health of the Oceans and was organizing a conference and exhibition titled: '*Sri Lanka Next – A blue Green Era*', to be held in Colombo from 17-19 October 2016.



Rear Admiral Rohana Perera addresses the gathering

Sri Lanka highlights complex issues involved in dealing with Ocean Debris

The Seventeenth meeting of the United Nations Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea was held in New York from 13-17 June 2016. The Meeting has been held annually since 1999 to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, of developments in Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. The Review also seeks to suggest particular issues to be considered with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced. At the Seventeenth meeting the focus of discussion was on 'marine debris, plastics and micro plastics' (MDPMs).

Mr. Gritakumar Chitty, Chairman of the National Ocean Affairs Committee (NOAC), and Dr. N.P.Wijayananda, Technical Expert, NOAC participated at the meeting together with a senior Mission official. Mr. Chitty, in delivering the national statement said that since the topic of MDPMs was addressed in 2005, marine debris has increased exponentially with a high prevalence of non-organic and non-biodegradable components particularly plastic. Mr. Chitty further urged the attention of the scientific community to fill knowledge gaps, increase scientific knowledge, and develop research, not only in order to improve ocean health but also to find affordable alternatives and substitutes for fishers and other communities that engage in livelihoods that may contribute to the increase of MDPMs.

Our time and resources must therefore be focused on capacity building and identifying viable options and affordable alternatives and substitutes as communities begin to transition to more sustainable methods of fishing, he also stated.

Sri Lanka advocates the Common Heritage of Mankind Principle at the UN

The Twenty-Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the UNCLOS was held at the UN Headquarters in New York from 20 – 24 June 2016. Ambassador Amrith Rohan Perera representing the Asia Pacific Group was elected one of the four Vice Presidents of the meeting. The Meeting took note of the annual report of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2015, as well as of the information reported by the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority and the Chairperson of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on activities of those bodies since the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of States Parties. The Meeting

also considered budgetary matters of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

Mr. Gritakumar E. Chitty, Chairman, National Ocean Affairs Committee, Dr. Wijayananda, Technical Expert, National Ocean Affairs Committee represented Sri Lanka along with a senior official of the Mission. In delivering the national statement Mr. Chitty welcomed the Report of the Secretary General on developments and issues relating

to ocean affairs and law of the sea. He appreciated the recent judgments of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and recognized its importance in the interpretation and application of the Law of the Sea Convention. He reminded the Meeting delegates that Sri Lanka was closely involved from the outset with the Third United Nations Conference on



The Sri Lankan delegation at informal talks with experts from Myanmar.

the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. He reminded the Meeting delegates that Sri Lanka was closely involved from the outset with the Third United Nations Conference on

the Law of the Sea, namely the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Seabed Authority and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, have played critical roles and continue to play significant roles in enabling developing countries like Sri Lanka, among others, reap the benefits of ocean resources, in particular the prospective exploi-

tation of the continental shelf, in a sustainable manner, he stated.

The Sri Lankan delegate noted in closing that the marine environment, marine research and marine technology should be approached with the principle of inter-generational equity uppermost in our minds. He pointed out that benefits derived from marine areas beyond national jurisdiction must be utilized, keeping sovereign rights over resources of the EEZ, while in the international area the common heritage of mankind principle applied.

Ms. Gabrielle Goettsche-Wanli, Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) briefed the States Parties Meeting on the status of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship and called for donations in order to continue to assist candidates from developing countries to pursue research in ocean affairs, particularly the law of the sea.

Reception hosted by the Sri Lanka Mission on the occasion of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the LoS

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations hosted a reception for key delegates of the Twenty Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the Law of the Sea. Invitees included experts from Australia, Bangladesh, Germany, India, Norway, Maldives, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam and Myanmar. Also invited were senior officials of DOALOS including its director Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli, Mr. Nii Allotey Odunton, Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), Mr. Lawrence Awosika, Chair of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), and Vladimir Golitsyn, President of International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). Several Ambassadors from SAARC countries were also present.



Sri Lanka makes its submission to the CLCS Subcommittee

The Sri Lanka delegation headed by Ambassador Dr. Rohan Perera presented its Continental Shelf Submission before the Subcommittee established by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf from 24-28 October 2016. Pictures show Sri Lanka's delegation.



The Sri Lankan delegation included (from L to R) H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera, Dr. Hiran Jayawardene, Dr. N. P. Wijayananda, Dr. Ray Wood, Mr. Nalin de Silva, Mr. Saman Perera, Mr. Parinda Ranasinghe, Mrs. Tilani Silva, Ambassador A.S.Khan and Ms. Sonali Samarasinghe



The Sri Lanka delegation with members of the Subcommittee

Peacekeeping

Maj. Gen. Ubaya Medawela, Military Advisor at the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka, visited the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon

Maj. General U A B Medawela, RSP VSV USP ndu psc Msc, the Minister (Military Advisor) at the Permanent Mission of the Sri Lanka to the United Nations visited United Nations Interim forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from 27-30 April 2016. On arrival in Lebanon Maj Gen Ubaya Medawela visited the Embassy of Sri Lanka. During his visit the Major General visited and inspected all equipment facilities and essential needs for soldiers at the Sri Lanka Force Protection Company Head Quarters and the UNIFIL headquarters. He also attended the office call with Head of the Mission /Force Commander Maj Gen Lusiano Portalano (Italy). The key appointment holders in UNIFIL also participated. Following the Office Call, Maj Gen Medawela visited all the Gate, Quick Reaction Team (QRT) and Operations where Sri Lankan soldiers perform duties to maintain security of the UNIFIL HQ. He also attended a lunch with Head of Mission/Force Commander. The Military Advisor also visited the Blue line at UN Position 4 – 2, 4 -7c Indian Battalion AO and UN Position 8-33 of the Nepal Battalion Area of operation.



Exchange of memento with Maj. Gen. Luciano Portalano



Guard of Honour



Addressing the troops



Photo with the participants at the Office Call

Persons with Disabilities

Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka co-sponsors side event on regional collaboration on political rights for persons with disabilities

On 15 June 2016, the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations co-sponsored a side event organized by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), entitled: *'How Regional Collaboration can lead to more effective implementation of political rights of persons with disabilities in the 2030 Development Agenda'*, during the 9th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The event discussed the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life and in contributing to realizing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera, Ambassador and Permanent Representa-



Panelists at the side event on regional collaboration on political rights for persons with disabilities

tive of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, co-chaired the event alongside Mr. Mika Kontiainen, Director of Disability in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Ambassador Perera delivered the welcome remarks where he expressed the significance of the discussion as the implementation stage of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is reached, an agenda which has resolved to 'leave no one behind.' In this context, he stated that it is imperative to promote accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels as envisaged in Goal 16.

Mr. Senarath Attanayake, Provincial

Councillor of the Uva Province was a panellist at this event and delivered a presentation in which he spoke of his personal journey as the first disabled politician in Sri Lanka. In the course of his presentation Mr. Attanayake stated that during his tenure at the Uva Provincial Council, he had taken efforts to ensure inclusivity and accessibility in the electoral process through projects

that provided multiple accessible polling stations for persons with disabilities in Monaragala. The Council also took efforts to ensure that youth with disability are not left behind, by providing self-employment as well as provincial council employment opportunities. He identified measures taken to engage with the Elections Commission, and with election monitoring bodies, conducting of advocacy campaigns, and also advocating the participation of persons with disabilities in all areas of political life and not only as voters. Other panelists included Ms. Virginia Atkinson, Senior Access and Inclusion Specialist at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Mr. Setareki Macanawai, CEO of the Pacific Disability Forum, and Mr. Mohammad Ali Loutfy, Executive Director of the Arab Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Attendees at the side event

Sri Lanka ahead on Sanitation and Hygiene, Ambassador tells UN

Ambassador Dr. Rohan Perera, Permanent Representative to the UN was a specially invited panelist at an event titled 'Achieving Gender Equality through WASH' hosted by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) held at the United Nations in New York on the sidelines of the 60th Commission for the Status of Women in March this year.

WSSCC is a Geneva based organization focusing on sanitation and hygiene in Africa and Asia that implements projects in the South Asian region, particularly in Sri Lanka. The organization has carried out work in Africa and was a key partner of the South Asian Conference on Sanitation

(SACOSAN) held in Dhaka on 11-13 January 2016 where Sri Lanka was represented by Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of Urban De-



Dr. Rohan Perera, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN, speaks at event on Sanitation

velopment, Water Supply and Drainage.

Earlier Mr. Christopher Williams – Executive Director of WSSCC said that Sri Lanka was far ahead of many other countries in the region in terms of sanitation and hygiene. At present their research was focused on the Plantation communities living in the hill country as well as on sanitation workers. He was pleased to note that one of the tangible outcomes of the SACOSAN Conference was Sri Lanka's commitment to setting up a 'functioning and dynamic SACOSAN Sec-

retariat in Sri Lanka by 2018'.

In his opening remarks Ambassador Perera said he was pleased to state that Sri Lanka was one of the few countries in South Asia that had achieved both the water and sanitation targets in the MDG goals. The World Health Organization 2015 report titled: 'Sanitation, drinking-water and hygiene status overview' indicates that 'sanitation and hygiene coverage in Sri Lanka is 92%—the best in South Asia'. Drinking-water coverage in Sri Lanka is at 94%.

However, the remaining 8% of sanitation and hygiene coverage and 6% in drinking water coverage highlights that Sri Lanka is yet to achieve 'universality' in these two core areas. The key groups and communities concerned with which the Government of Sri Lanka is currently working on, are the fishing communities, tea plantation workers in the hill country and villages in some remote areas. Sri Lanka has set an ambitious target in achieving 100% success in these areas by 2020, the ambassador also said.



Audience at the event entitled 'Achieving Gender Equality through WASH'

Sustainable Development

Sri Lanka Mission hosts HLPF Side Event

Planning for an Inclusive Transformation:
A dialogue towards building scenarios for
visions and pathways



The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York, together with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Sri Lanka and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) hosted a side event at the Mission premises on 19 July 2016.

The event titled: *'Planning for an Inclusive Transformation; A dialogue towards building scenarios for visions and pathways'*, was held on the side-lines of the 2016 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.

Welcoming the participants Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Dr. Rohan Perera remarked that



H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera welcomes the panel and the audience to the event

Sri Lanka has recognized the critical importance of a cohesive integrated approach to national implementation of the SDGs.

Delivering the opening remarks, the Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife of Sri Lanka and Chair

formation for sustainable development the Minister noted.

Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, remarked that the Asia Pacific region is already undergoing growth transitions but now needs to transition to sustainable development.



Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife of Sri Lanka, delivers opening remarks



Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP addresses the gathering

of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) pointed out that Sri Lanka is the first country in the Asia-Pacific region to establish a Ministry for Sustainable Development. As the current Chair of the APFSD, Sri Lanka is now in a unique leadership position to champion trans-

This event included a lead presentation by Mr. Uchita De Zoysa, Sustainable Development Advisor to the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, who also moderated a panel discussion comprising of representatives from governments, UN agencies, international development agencies and civil society.

Trade Law

Sri Lanka actively participates in the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law after a hiatus of many years

The Forty-ninth Session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) was held from 27 June – 15 July 2016 at the UN in New York.

Sri Lanka successfully presented its candidature as a member of UNCITRAL this year and was elected to its membership on 17 June for a period of six years. UNCITRAL consists of 60 Member States of the United Nations.

Mr. N.D. Priyantha Nawana, Deputy Solicitor General, Attorney General's Department participated from Sri Lanka. Ambassador Dr. Rohan Perera headed the delegation which included Mrs. Sonali Samarasinghe, Attorney at Law and Minister Counsellor of the Mission. In his report the Deputy Solicitor General stated that specific areas such as the Model Law on Secured Transactions; Arbitration and Conciliation as modes of alternative dispute resolution; Online Dispute Resolution; Electronic Commerce; and, Micro Small and Medium

Sized Enterprises occupied significant places as substantive subjects on the agenda. Technical assistance to law reforms; Promotion of ways and means of ensuring a uniform interpretation and application of UNCITRAL legal texts; and the role of UNCITRAL in promoting the rule of law at the national and international level surfaced on the procedural front.

After extensive week-long deliberations that took on board many interventions by members, non-members, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, the Model Law on Secured Transactions was adopted by the UNCITRAL. Sri Lanka intervened along with the United States of America, India, Singapore, China, Venezuela and Spain on the need to incorporate the alternative dispute resolution method of arbitration in the Model Law, which was accepted by the UNCITRAL.

Mr. Nawana pointed out that Working

Group II on Arbitration and Conciliation, Working Group III on Online Dispute Resolution [ODR], Working



Mr. Priyantha Nawana, Deputy Solicitor General, Attorney General's Department, presents a memento to Permanent Representative Dr. Rohan Perera

Group IV on Electronic Commerce, are of particular significance to Sri Lanka in view of the timely need to modernize and harmonize the existing laws.

Sri Lanka Supreme Court Justice invited as Panelist to Open Briefing at the UN on the 'Effective Adjudication of Terrorism Cases'



Supreme Court Justice & Acting Chief Justice Chandra Ekanayake at the Open Briefing

Supreme Court Justice and Acting Chief Justice Chandra Ekanayake was invited by the UN Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) to participate as a featured panelist at the Open Briefing of the Counter Terrorism Committee on "The Effective Adjudication of Terrorism Cases" at the UN headquarters in New York on 10 March 2016.

The Briefing which drew a full house included United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and other Judges including Chief Justices from SAARC countries. The two day program also featured side events where the judges were able to engage in technical discussions in a non-political forum about their work, and discuss in detail CTED's South Asia judges' project. Many related topics were discussed including possible judicial cooperation within the SAARC region in relation to terrorism and other complex criminal cases.

Address by His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena

President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

General Debate 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

21 September 2016

It is an extremely happy occasion for me to participate in this 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, as the President of Sri Lanka.

During the past twenty months or so, we have ushered in a new era of transformation in Sri Lanka, and given priority to laying the foundation for the necessary political and economic reforms.

In particular, we have managed to end the state of fear and doubt that prevailed in Sri Lankan society before my Government came into office, and we have laid the foundation and strengthened the requirements necessary for people living in a democratic society to live with happiness and in freedom, without fear.

The objective of my Government is to make Sri Lanka one of the happiest nations in the world for all the people in my country. Therefore, in consolidating freedom and democracy and achieving economic prosperity, our objective and aspiration is to make the people of Sri Lanka rank among the strongest and most erudite and enlightened in the world.

Poverty is presently a serious challenge throughout the world, including Sri Lanka. Next year, 2017, has been declared as the year of freedom from poverty in my country. We have prioritized economic development and given prominence to putting in place the necessary requirements for addressing all the problems faced by the people of my country.

Mr. President,

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When working with the United Nations and other organizations as well as other nations, and when working on addressing the requirements of the people of our country, we are committed to always give priority to sustainable development. It is within this framework that we have given prominence to securing the necessary economic benefits for our people. Therefore, we will be mindful to protect our environment, and work within the Agreement reached at the Paris Climate Change Conference as advocated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in making the required transformations in all the necessary fields in our country.

On behalf of the educated young generation in our country I commit to work towards making Sri Lankan society recognize and give importance to the formulation of new policies aimed at achieving national development and a new production economy, based on knowledge-based economic development, and a green economy.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

As an island nation endowed with ocean resources, the new government hopes giving priority to utilizing ocean resources for implementing a programme of action for development of tourism, fisheries industries and marine research. While advancing free healthcare and free education, we intend to infuse new knowledge into these streams for the development of agriculture and local industries. Through these steps and the development of local industries, we seek to provide better facilities and improved living standards for the people of our country.

Mr. President,

We see a disturbing phenomenon in today's world, internationally, in most countries. Societies are afflicted with war and war-like situations, violent extremism, division and hatred. In situations like this, the fundamentals of civilized society and humanity face serious threat. In this context, I believe that every country must today give importance and priority to addressing these problems that have arisen in our societies and work towards developing a society that respects humanity. As a Buddhist country, the values and philosophy in the teachings of Theravada Buddhism too, we believe, can provide important and useful insight in the quest to seek solutions to many of the problems the world faces today. Similarly, I see this present era in the world as one in which the teachings of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and other religions and philosophies are important for creating greater understanding. For this, the cooperation of all countries is essential.

In the process of bringing about these changes, there is a serious threat faced by most countries in the world including Sri Lanka to which I would like to draw the attention of the respected General Assembly of the United Nations. This is the problem of drugs that poses a serious threat to human society itself, preying on school-going children and causing much destruction to communities. When this Session of the General Assembly began yesterday, the President of Brazil who made the inaugural address explained in detail the serious nature of this threat to our societies and communities. While adding my voice to the appeal made by the President of Brazil, I urge the General Assembly of the United Nations to look at developing a strong international framework that is more effective than existing measures that are in place, to eradicate the drug menace that has afflicted our societies and threaten the younger generation, especially children in schools. Such a programme must include plans and efforts to combat this menace at national level in all countries, and at international level.

I assure this Assembly that we have taken several important steps in our country that are necessary for consolidating democracy, freedom, good governance, and the rule of law. I am happy to state that through such transformative steps, we have laid the foundation necessary to forge national reconciliation and ensure non-recurrence of conflict in our country – my country.

As a country that has suffered violent conflict for 30 years we are drawing from experience and lessons learned to strengthen national reconciliation and we are determined to prevent the recurrence of conflict in my country, Sri Lanka. We have given priority in this context to consolidate freedom and democracy in our country, and through a strong foundation of national reconciliation forged through unity and friendship among communities, we want to make Sri Lanka an erudite and enlightened nation. For this purpose I respectfully seek the cooperation of all countries and international organizations.

In the introduction of political reform and transformation and in strengthening the national reconciliation process, we will always give prominence to and respect for local and indigenous philosophy and the needs and requirements of our people, while protecting the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. This is in line with the importance of recognizing the requirements of the people of my country, specific to Sri Lanka, similar to the need for all the other countries in the world to have such processes in line with local thinking and the specific character of the people in those respective countries. In our journey of carrying out social and political reform in line with the requirements of our people, we seek to do so with international assistance and cooperation, and in line with internationally recognized practice to build an enlightened society in my country.

After being entangled in violent conflict for almost 30 years I seek the cooperation and blessings of the entire international community, to proceed on this journey of strengthening national reconciliation and political reform with wisdom, in an intelligent and prudent manner, with patience and dignity, to accomplish the goals that my treasured Sri Lankan nation, my motherland, seeks.

I value greatly, the cooperation extended to Sri Lanka at all times by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and his officials. During his years in office as Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon rendered an invaluable service to all people. He helped us strengthen reconciliation. Internationally, he helped carry out development requirements necessary for all, for the entire world community, and I value his service greatly.

In conclusion, I emphasize the commitment of my Government, at all times, to carry out our responsibilities towards making my country, the Sri Lankan nation, one of the most enlightened nations of the world. For this purpose, we will carry out programmes that empower our youth and our new generations by providing them the necessary knowledge that they require to succeed. In carrying out all these tasks, I ensure that we will act responsibly at all times by building a democratic and free society that can be an example to others, and carry out our responsibilities and obligations towards our people. I end my remarks by respectfully seeking your cooperation and blessings necessary to succeed in this important journey that we have undertaken.

Thank you,
May the Triple Gem bless you.



President Sirisena receiving felicitations after his address at the 71st Session of the General Assembly

71st Session of the



President Sirisena attends the reception hosted by President & Mrs. Obama on the occasion of the 71st Session of the General Assembly



President Maithripala Sirisena held bilateral discussions with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull



US Secretary of State John Kerry reassures full support to Sri Lanka during his meeting with President Sirisena on the sidelines of the 71st UNGA



The delegation of Sri Lanka attend the opening of the 71st Session of the General Assembly



President hands over the Instrument of Ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon



President Sirisena met Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon for bilateral discussions where Mr. Ban commended the President's commitment to good governance and reconciliation



President Sirisena attended the High Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases hosted by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs WHO and the Russian Federation



Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) met with President Sirisena to discuss the Threshold Programme through which MCC provides assistance for selected projects

General Assembly



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Hon. Mikheil Janelidze and Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka Hon. Mangala Samaraweera signed agreements between the governments on Visa Exemptions for holders of Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports



The Minister for Asia and the Pacific, UK, Mr. Alok Sharma at bilateral discussions with Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka Hon. Mangala Samaraweera



A bilateral meeting was held between Foreign Minister Hon. Mangala Samaraweera and Foreign Minister of the Maldives Hon. Dr. Mohammed Asim



A bilateral meeting between Foreign Minister Hon. Mangala Samaraweera and Ambassador Moushira Khatab, Candidate for the post of Director-General of UNESCO from Egypt



Foreign Minister Hon. Mangala Samaraweera attended the Informal Luncheon Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers



Hon. Mangala Samaraweera had a bilateral meeting with Ms. Margot Wallstrom, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden



High Commissioner for Human Rights Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein met with Foreign Minister Hon. Mangala Samaraweera



Foreign Minister Hon. Mangala Samaraweera meets with Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, Executive-Director of the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate



Hon. Mangala Samaraweera with Mr. Ivica Dacic, First Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus meets with Hon. Mangala Samaraweera

Wildlife Trafficking & Poaching

Sri Lanka made an impassioned statement at a special High Level event titled “Wildlife Crime and New York launch of the World Wildlife Crime Report” on the 6th on June 2016 organised by The Permanent Missions of Germany and Gabon, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

In delivering remarks Ambassador and Charge d’ Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Mr. Sabarullah Khan said that our wildlife and forests, our flora and fauna are being ravaged due to transnational organized crime impacting vulnerable communities and our fragile environment. Wildlife and forest crime is to today one of the largest transnational organized criminal activities alongside

drugs, arms and human trafficking, he noted. Urging global action Ambassador Khan said that Sri Lanka stands ready to combat with utmost



Deputy Permanent Representative, Ambassador Sabarullah Khan, delivers remarks at the “Wildlife Crime and New York launch of the World Wildlife Crime Report”

vigor the illegal trafficking of these products. In January this year (2016) Sri Lanka crushed and burnt its stockpile of confiscated elephant ivory comprising 359 elephant tusks. This ivory came from a single shipment weighing 1.5 tons seized in the Port of Colombo in May 2012. We became the 16th country and

the first in South Asia to do so, he said.

My country possesses a high level of biodiversity and a remarkable high proportion of endemic species. Sri Lanka is committed to conserving wildlife and nature by the sustainable utilization of men, material and land through participatory management, research, education and law enforcement and ensuring the maintenance of biodiversity and forest cover as it exists today. Sri Lanka’s National Policy on Wildlife Conservation has been updated to respond to the evolving needs of Sri Lankan society and the additional mandates of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), he also said.

Candid Capture

Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade and Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research informally discuss current affairs and matters of importance to Sri Lanka during the High Level Signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change held in April, 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.



Women's Empowerment

Domestic Violence Against Women and Girls: A Major Obstacle to Empowerment

Minister of Women and Child Affairs, Hon. Chandrani Bandara Jayasingha delivered the opening address at the panel discussion on 'Domestic Violence Against Women and Girls: A Major Obstacle to Women's Empowerment' held on 18 March 2016 at the Sri Lanka Mission premises in New York on the sidelines of the 60th Commission on the Status of Women. The event was co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka and the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY. The panel consisted of the Hon. Mrs.



Hon. Chandrani Bandara, Minister of Women and Child Affairs, delivers opening address

Sicily K. Kariuki, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Mrs. Nana Oye Lithur, Cabinet Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection of the Republic of Ghana, Ms. Carolyn. B Maloney, U.S. Congressional Representative of New York District 12, and Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women. Minister Hon. Chandrani Bandara in her opening address noted that the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 2005 was one of the most significant measures taken to address intra-family violence. She said that Sri Lanka has undertaken several awareness programmes within communities, and Women and Children's Desks had been set up at police stations, which were now operational in many parts of the country. However, the Minister emphasised that legal measures were not sufficient to address the problem, and that changes are required at multiple levels of society in order to develop a holistic approach to rectify the situation. The panelists discussed the topic further by considering country contexts as in the case of the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Ghana. The importance of women raising their voices, and having a safe outlet to express their experiences was highlighted as well as the necessity to make it understood that this is an effort that required men and women to work together. A robust and vigorous Q and A session followed the panel discussion. Ambassador Dr. Perera delivered the Vote of Thanks.



Hon. Chandrani Bandara, Minister of Women and Child Affairs and Ms. Sonali Samarasinghe, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka and moderator of the event

Women in Post-War Reconciliation

The Road to Reconciliation: Justice, Hope and Dignity in Sri Lanka



From L to R: Ms. Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, Hon. Nosiviwe Noluthano Mapisa-Nqakula, Hon. Chandrani Bandara, Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa

Minister of Women and Child Affairs, Hon. Chandrani Bandara, was one of the panelists at the event titled 'Women in Post-Conflict Reconciliation – The Road to Reconciliation: Justice, Hope and Dignity in Sri Lanka,' held at the Sri Lanka Mission premises on 17 March 2016 on the sidelines of the 60th Commission on the Status of Women. The event was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Association of War Affected Women (AWAW) and the International Center for Action Network (ICAN). The panel included the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans of the Republic of South Africa,

Hon. Nosiviwe Noluthano Mapisa-Nqakula, Chairperson of the AWAW Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa and Co-Founder and Executive Director of ICAN Ms. Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini and Mrs. Sonali Samarasinghe, Minister Counsellor of the Mission as moderator. Minister Chandrani Bandara in her initial remarks noted that since the change of administration in January 2015 the government of Sri Lanka has been committed to implementing its international obligations, not only because of its responsibility towards international assurances but also because it has a duty towards its own people to ensure their future. The event drew participants from the diplomatic sector, the Sri Lankan expatriate community and civil society advocates in New York. The topic generated great interest and a lively Q and A session followed the panel discussion.

Minister of Women and Child Affairs Hon. Chandrani Bandara meets US Ambassador at large for Global Women's Issues

Minister Chandrani Bandara met Ms. Catherine Russell, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, U.S Department of State, on the side lines of the sixtieth Commission for the Status of Women in New York. The delegation from the US included Ambassador Catherine Russell, Chief of Staff Regina Waugh and Jonathan Dach from the Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State. From the Sri Lanka side Hon. Minister Bandara, Ambassador Dr. Rohan Perera, Permanent Representative, Mrs. Swarna Sumanasekera, Chairperson, National Committee on Women, Visakha Dharmadasa, Chair Association of War Affected Women, and Minister Counsellor, Sonali Samarasinghe attended. The delegations discussed matters of mutual interest including the launch of a U.S.-Sri Lanka Women's Empowerment Dialogue which would be a useful way to institutionalize the deep cooperation between GoSL and US on issues related to women and girls. Gender issues such as equitable participation in all aspects of politics including in leadership positions, violence against women and girls, women's economic empowerment were discussed. Minister Bandara reiterated Sri Lanka's strong position on women's economic empowerment as a prerequisite for sustainable development and pro-poor growth. She said that as a Cabinet Minister she was fully aware that achieving women's economic empowerment requires sound public policies, a holistic approach and that a strong commitment and gender-specific perspectives must be integrated into every policy and program.



Hon. Chandrani Bandara meets US Ambassador at large for Global Women's Issues, Ms. Catherine Russell

World Youth Skills Day celebrated in New York *Youth*

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka organized a special event at the United Nations to celebrate World Youth Skills Day on 15 July 2016. Sri Lanka was a pioneering country in the effort to pass a Resolution adopted in November 2014 declaring 15 of July a day dedicated to the development of youth skills. This year's event was held under the theme 'Skills Development to Improve Youth Employment.' The Permanent Mission of Portugal, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy for Youth, ILO and UNESCO were also associ-



President of the General Assembly Mr. Mogens Lykketoft with Mr. Madhuka Wickramarachchi, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka

stock, Vice Chair, Business Innovations at General Electric, also delivered opening statements. Ms. Annisa Triyanti, a youth delegate delivered the final statement of the opening session as representative of the Major Group for Children and Youth.

The opening session was followed by a partnership dialogue which included representatives from government, UN entities, trade unions, academia, civil society, and the private sector, reflecting the cross-cutting levels of labour that all play an integral role in employment. These representatives expressed their views on the relationship between skills development and youth employment. A robust exchange of ideas followed soon after with member states, youth and other representatives raising questions and expressing country positions on the matter at hand.



Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera makes an intervention at World Youth Skills Day

ated with Sri Lanka in this endeavour.

H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the General Assembly in delivering the opening statement, noted that Skills Development is a primary means of enabling young people to make a smooth transition to work and that education and training can make the difference for youth between poverty and employment.

The Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Na-

tions, H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera, addressing the opening session of the event, underlined that the answer to youth unemployment remains within the parameters of the market economy itself. He said that the 'skills gap' is something that will continue as long as students, educators and employers are not on the same page. Identification and prediction of market realities in future and aligning the skills training with them, is the need of this hour," the Ambassador said.

Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister for Sustainable Development and Wildlife making an intervention underlined that Sri Lanka has realized the importance of having inclusiveness at all stages of the implementation of the SDGs. Therefore a National Sustainable Development Road map that will lead towards the formulation of a legislative and institutional framework and a national strategy will underline the importance of skills training.

Mr. Gilbert Hounbo, Deputy Director-General, Field Operations and Partnerships of ILO, Mr. Jorge Sequiera, Director of UNESCO Office in Santiago, and Ms. Beth Com-



Permanent Representative Dr. Rohan Perera with President of the General Assembly Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, and the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi

The Mission celebrates Sri Lanka's rich multi ethnic, multi-cultural and multi religious diversity on Independence Day

The Sri Lanka Permanent Mission to the United Nations celebrated Sri Lanka's 68th anniversary of independence with two events.

At a solemn morning ceremony, Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Dr. Rohan Perera hoisted the National flag in the presence of staff and well-wishers.

In keeping with the government's commitment to post-conflict reconciliation efforts, and fulfilling one of the core recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, Sri Lanka's National Anthem was played in full in both Sinhala and Tamil. The Independence Day messages of the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister were also read.

In an evening reception, the Mission hosted over 250 diplomats and high dignitaries of the United Nations to mark the occasion. Both the President of the General Assembly Morgens Lykketoft, and Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson, together with a large gathering of Permanent Representatives, members of the foreign press, including travel writers and promotional specialists were present.

The proceedings commenced with the national anthem again sung in both languages, marking a break with the past.

Ambassador Perera in his welcome address, said the mission was happy to celebrate the rich multi ethnic, multi cultural and multi religious diversity of our country, our long held traditions of tolerance and understanding, and our compassion towards all beings.

He also noted, that as one of the oldest democracies in Asia, this was a time to celebrate, not our past divisions, but recall and honour the spirit of unity that had prevailed in our land through the centuries.

In welcoming distinguished invitees and members of the foreign Press attached to the United Nations, Ambassador Perera noted that Sri Lanka was celebrating *two* momentous events in her political history and its 60 year relationship with the United Nations.

"Sri Lanka today celebrates her 68th anniversary of Independence from colonial rule. We do so at a most opportune time for our nation, as it emerges from a period of conflict that plagued us for over 27 years.

"In elections held in January 2015, our people embraced change, and mandated a return to good governance, democracy, respect for the Rule of Law, and positive engagement with the world community," the Ambassador said.

"It is therefore in the backdrop of my country's renewed commitment to multilateral engagement, with the United Nations at its core, that we are delighted to *also* continue to celebrate, the 60th anniversary of Sri Lanka's admission to the United Nations which fell on 14 December 2015," he noted.



Greeting guests arriving for the diplomatic reception



Ambassador Dr. Rohan Perera, Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the United Nations delivers the welcome address



President of the General Assembly Mogens Lykketoft congratulates Ambassador Dr. Rohan Perera at the diplomatic reception held to mark the 68th Anniversary of Sri Lanka's Independence

The President of the General Assembly Mogens Lykketoft in his address, congratulated Sri Lanka on its 68th anniversary of Independence and on Sri Lanka's positive interactions with the UN throughout the years.

"Our host, Ambassador Perera and his Mission, know all about working together in pursuit of the UN's noble objectives.

"Despite challenges and upheavals domestically, Sri Lanka has consistently supported the work of the UN General Assembly and played an important role as consensus builder on various issues, including on the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism (CCIT), Mr. Lykketoft said.

It was regrettable, he noted, that despite Ambassador Perera's commendable efforts, member states had been unable to deliver concrete results on the CCIT.

"I however continue to believe that progress is possible," Mr. Lykketoft added.

"This is an evening for celebration, an evening where we rejoice in the fact that the UN is an Organization

involved in the work of the UN, since its admission as a Member State. A promotional video showcasing Sri Lanka as a combination of World Heritage sites, wildlife, history, rich culture, pristine beaches, and friendly people was continuously played on a large screen at the mission, mesmerizing those present with the natural beauty of the Pearl of the Orient.

The *pièce de résistance* of the event

was the grand food festival representing Sri Lanka's delicious cuisine, influenced by many historical, and cultural factors.

Four gourmet chefs from Sri Lanka's Citrus Group specially

flew to New York City to

for all nations, and an evening where Sri Lanka celebrates its place on the international stage, and its contribution to a better world for all," Mr. Lykketoft further said.

The evening event featured archival photographs on display throughout the mission building that told the unique story of Sri Lanka's active

make traditional and exciting Sri Lankan fare for the reception.

Sri Lankan teas, spices, cookery books and written works on the tea trade of Sri Lanka were also on display delighting the large number of invitees.

A special tea stand enabled guests to sample a range of Sri Lanka's best teas.

The Mission together with the community also held an event at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in New Jersey, to mark the 68th anniversary of Independence for the wider Sri Lankan community, on Sunday 7 February. Over 800 guests were in attendance. Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic and Christian religious ceremonies and a cultural show reflecting Sri Lanka's diversity and showcasing the talents of the children of the community were the highlights of the event. United States Congressmen from the tristate area comprising New York, New Jersey and Connecticut were in attendance. The Mayor of Franklin Township also addressed the gathering.



Performance at community event to mark Sri Lanka's 68th Anniversary of Independence

Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Mangala Samaraweera serves as key panelist at UNDP event

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Mangala Samaraweera arrived in New York on a three day visit, to attend the UNDP 50th Anniversary Ministerial meeting held at the UN headquarters, from 21-24 February 2016.

During the UNDP Ministerial segment, Minister Samaraweera was a principal ministerial panelist at the thematic breakout session titled 'Preventing Violent Conflict, Building Peaceful Societies,' and elaborated on the link between development and peace.



Minister Mangala Samaraweera meets Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator of the UNDP

The Minister met Helen Clark, Administrator of the UNDP, to underscore the strong partnership between the organization and the Sri Lankan Government and its people. He also met Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary General of the Department of Political Affairs, for discussions on peace building architecture and Sri Lanka's enhanced peacekeeping presence around the world, and H.E. Samantha Power, Permanent Representative of the United States to the UN and Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador Michele Sison ahead of the crucial partnership dialogue based on the four pillars of Governance, Security Cooperation, Economic Cooperation and International Cooperation to take place in Washington later that week.

During the visit the Mission of Sweden hosted an Ambassadorial lunch in honour of Minister Samaraweera. Those in attendance in-

cluded the ambassadors of Australia, Japan, South Korea, Angola and Kenya and the Director of the United Nations Peace Building Support Office (PBSO).



Minister Mangala Samaraweera met with US Permanent Representative, Ambassador Samantha Power, on the sidelines of the event to mark the 50th Anniversary of the UNDP



Minister Mangala Samaraweera served as key panelist at a session titled "Preventing Violent Conflict, Building Peaceful Societies" on 24 February 2016

Sri Lanka at the UN



Hon. Chandrani Bandara, Minister of Women and Child Affairs delivered a statement at the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women held in March 2016. The priority theme of this year's CSW60 is 'Women's Empowerment and its link to sustainable development.' The Minister also delivered remarks at a roundtable on the priority theme. The focus of the roundtable was on 'Enhancing national institutional arrangements for gender equality and women's empowerment.'

Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Minister of Law and Order and Southern Development, addressed the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the 'World Drug Problem', on 20 April 2016. In his statement, the Minister briefed the Assembly on the steps Sri Lanka has taken in its national capacity to address this issue. The Minister was also a lead speaker at a side event organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled 'Listen First'.



Sri Lanka was among 171 countries that signed the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016 at the High-Level Signature Ceremony of the Paris Agreement held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research signed the Agreement on behalf of Sri Lanka. After signing the agreement, Minister Premajayantha delivered a national statement which highlighted the historical value the people and the Government of Sri Lanka placed on the preservation of nature and the climate.

The Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, delivered two statements, one at the General Debate on the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2016 and the other at the High Level Segment of ECOSOC, on 18 July 2016. The first statement was delivered on behalf of the Group of 15, in Sri Lanka's capacity as Chair of the Group, and the second statement was delivered in Sri Lanka's national capacity.



The United Nations held its Annual International Bazaar on Wednesday 4 May 2016, which was organized by the Committee of Spouses of Permanent Representatives, in collaboration with Honorary Chairperson Mrs. Ban Soon-taek, wife of the Secretary-General of the UN. Approximately one hundred member states participated in this one day fundraising event held in the United Nations Visitors Plaza. Sri Lanka showcased a wide range of traditional foods, including Sri Lankan spices and tea.

Sri Lanka in New York

SRI LANKA PAVILION AT 'ARTISAN RESOURCE AT NY NOW 2016'

Sri Lanka participated at the popular 'Artisan Resource at NY NOW 2016' held from 21-24 August 2016 at the Jacob Javits Center in New York. The Pavilion showcased some of Sri Lanka's finest products in the niche market and the exhibits were declared open by Dr. Rohan Perera,



Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp at the Sri Lanka Pavilion

Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations. The Sri Lanka Exports Development Board organised seven Sri Lankan companies to participate at the Trade Fair where colourful giftware & lifestyle products manufactured in Sri Lanka were on display.



Ambassador Rohan Perera declares open the Sri Lanka Pavilion.

Hon. Senarath Attanayake Provincial Councillor, Ambassador A. S. Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative, Ms. Upeka Samarasinghe, Minister (Commercial) of the Sri Lanka Embassy in Washington, Ms. Thejani De Alwis, Deputy Director of EDB and representatives of the participating companies and the trade fair organizers were present on the occasion.



Laksala products on display at the Sri Lanka Pavilion

SRI LANKAN TEA IN NEW YORK



Minister Navin Dissanayake addresses guests at the networking dinner hosted at the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN in New York

The Ministry of Plantation Industries along with the Sri Lanka Tea Board, the Sri Lankan Embassy in Washington D.C. and several Sri Lankan tea distributors represented Sri Lanka at the "Summer Fancy Food" Exhibition held at the Jacob Javits Center in New York from 26-29 June 2016. A business networking session to promote "Ceylon



Minister of Plantation Industries, Hon. Navin Dissanayake, declares open the Sri Lankan pavilion at the "Summer Fancy Food" Exhibition.

Tea" was also held at the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, on 26 June 2016. At the promotional event, Minister of Plantation Industries Hon. Navin Dissanayake addressed the gathering which included key US tea industrialists, tea importers, distributors, and retailers among others. Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam and Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Dr. Rohan Perera also addressed the gathering.

Sri Lankan Cultural Events

Celebrating 'Vesak' in New York



Permanent Representatives of Sri Lanka and Thailand giving alms at the religious ceremony

The celebrations commenced on the morning of 20 May with *heel dana* offered to 33 Buddhist monks representing Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, South Korea and Japan, at the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Dr. Rohan Perera, his Thai counterpart Ambassador Virachai Plasai, and senior diplomats from Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Bhutan, Nepal and China attended the ceremony and offered *heel dana* to the *Maha Sangha*. A number of lay persons including the staff of these countries were also present.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon addresses the gathering during Vesak celebrations held in the UN General Assembly Hall

This year's Vesak commemoration had special significance as it was the first time that the Day of Vesak was celebrated at the UN since it was declared an optional UN holiday. The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka was instrumental in getting the Day of Vesak declared an optional UN holiday through UNGA Resolution 69/250. A solemn event to mark the Day of Vesak, co-chaired by the Permanent Representatives of Sri Lanka and Thailand, was held on the evening of 20 May 2016 at the UN General Assembly Hall. A large number of Buddhist monks representing many countries, UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki moon, Permanent Representatives of Member States, senior diplomats, senior UN officials, staff of the Permanent Missions and the UN Secretariat, and Buddhists from various countries attended this event.



Prayer service lead by the Venerable Monks

'Ifthar' Programme at the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka



Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN, Dr. Rohan Perera and Deputy Permanent Representative Ambassador Sabarullah Khan sit alongside Moulavi Sheik Arkam Nooramith and Al Haj Thahir Moulavi

In his welcome remarks Ambassador Perera noted that in Sri Lanka there is a very vibrant Muslim community which has been actively contributing to every aspect of the nation and that they have been maintaining admirable harmony with people of other faiths for several centuries. He also mentioned that by truly adhering to the teachings of Islam one could spread peace around, which would help to reconcile with others while being at peace with oneself.

Moulavi Sheik Arkam Nooramith delivered an Islamic sermon in English and Sinhala while Al Haj

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York conducted traditional Ifthar (Breaking Ramadan Fast) on Friday 17 June 2016, with the participation of a large number of Sri Lankan Muslim expatriates living in the Tri-State area. The programme was held at the Mission premises. The programme included a welcome address by Dr. Rohan Perera, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN, religious speeches, Maghreb prayer and breaking of fast with Sri Lanka cuisine.



Attendees at the Ifthar Programme held in the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka



Prayers at the Ifthar programme

Thahir Moulavi recited Qirat and delivered an Islamic sermon in Tamil. A young member of the Sri Lankan Muslim community, Master Aadhil Fiyaz announced Adhan and Moulavi Sheik Arkam Nooramith led Maghreb prayers. Mr. Dilshad Ahmad on behalf of the Sri Lankan Muslim expatriate community thanked the Mission for arranging the Ifthar programme while noting that this year an unprecedented number of members of the Sri Lankan Muslim expatriate community from all parts of the Tri-State area have attended the Ifthar programme at the Mis-

Diaspora Engagement

Working towards Creative Partnerships

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka partnered with the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) to launch an inception workshop on *'Working towards Creative Partnerships'* as a first step of an initiative taken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka. It is part of the government's policy for positive and collaborative engagement with overseas Sri Lankans.



Dr. Darini Rajasingham Senanayake addresses the attendees at the CEPA workshop

Two formal interactive dialogues were held on 28 April 2016 and 12 May 2016 at the Mission premises, in the context of creating home grown models of post conflict economic development that in turn will foster an environment conducive to reconciliation and peace. Dr. Darini Rajasingham Senanayake, who is the lead program researcher

at CEPA, lead the discussion at these dialogues.

The meetings directed at community leaders and office holders of several key diaspora organizations and groups were well attended. Several key issues were raised at discussions and the diaspora expressed gratitude that the government of Sri Lanka had taken steps to give them a voice and lauded the initiative to start a broader conversation. Several members appreciated the setting up of a special desk for Overseas Sri Lankans in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and designating a diplomatic officer from the Mission to liaise with them. They were also encouraged by the Mission's inclusive policies of inviting the diaspora to several side events, which allowed for wider interaction with the international community and for Sri Lankan voices to be heard.

However those in attendance pointed out that there is a trust deficit that needs to be addressed by Sri Lankans back in Sri Lanka and the diaspora, both at a personal and a business/commercial level. The need to broaden development to all areas of the country was also discussed.



Attendees discussing fostering diaspora engagement at CEPA workshop

UN Day

Sri Lanka featured at UN Day Concert as International Community Celebrates 71 Years of the world body

Diplomats, UN staff and New Yorkers gathered in the General Assembly Hall on 23 October 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to celebrate 71 years of the existence of the world's foremost multilateral institution. This year the UN day concert was sponsored by Hungary and supported by Sri Lanka, Australia and Denmark. World renowned Sri Lankan Pianist Rohan De Silva accompanied Hungarian violinist Galina Danyilova in Bela Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances. The evening featured pieces from Zoltan Kodaly, Johann Strauss, Johannes Brahms and showcased dancers from the Hungarian National Ballet.

The performance came in for high praise from those present. The Hungarian Ambassador in her remarks specifically thanked Sri Lanka, Australia and Denmark for their participation at the event.



(From R to L) Ambassador Dr. Rohan Perera with
Mr. Rohan De Silva and Dr. Rohan Edirisinha, Senior
Political Affairs Officer, Department of Political
Affairs, UN



Mr. Rohan De Silva (3rd from Left)
with other performers

The Hungarian sponsorship of the event tied to its commemoration of the 1956 uprising which came to be known at the UN as the 'Hungarian Problem'. Consequent to the uprising a Special Committee was formed on the 'Problem of Hungary' for the purpose of investigating Hungary's 1956 uprising and its suppression.

The five countries who were members of the Committee were Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Australia, the Philippines, Tunisia and Uruguay.



Prayer service and offering of *heel dana* during Vesak Celebrations held in the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka on 20 May 2016



Heel Dana offered at the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka



Venerable Kamburawala Shri Rewatha Thero, the Chief Monk of Siam Nikaya Kotte Chapter in Great Britain and Chief Monk at the Scotland Buddhist Vihara delivers a sermon



Former President Chandrika Kumaratunga was a main speaker and panelist at an interactive session titled *Leading by Example: Innovative Partnerships and Responses* held during the High Level Thematic Debate on UN, Peace & Security



Former President Chandrika Kumaratunga met with Permanent Representative of the USA to the UN, Ms. Samantha Power



Former President Chandrika Kumaratunga attended a Security Council meeting



Deputy Permanent Representative Amb. Sabarullah Khan delivers opening remarks at the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Event



Hon. Sagala Ratnayake, Minister of Law and Order and Southern Development was a panelist at the *Learn First* side event



Prof. Ravindra Fernando co-chairs a Roundtable discussion on the World Drug Problem



Hon. Sagala Ratnayake held bilateral discussions with Hon. Nisar Ali Khan, Minister of Interior and Narcotics Control in Pakistan on the sidelines of the Special Session on the World Drug Problem



Italy's Vice Foreign Minister Benedetto Della Vedova met with Minister of Women & Child Affairs Hon. Chandrani Bandara on the sidelines of the 60th Commission on the Status of Women



Hon. Chandrani Bandara delivers remarks at the Ministerial Segment Roundtable during the 60th Commission on the Status of Women

A Year in Pictures



Minister Chandrani Bandara at the General Assembly Hall attending the 60th Commission on the Status of Women



Permanent Representative H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera with tea masters and performers of the traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony held at the mission



Minister Kabir Hashim, Minister of Public Enterprise and Development and Chair, Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation, in Sri Lanka, makes a point during the panel discussion of the side event entitled 'No One Left Behind: Evaluating SDGs with an Equity Focused and Gender Responsive Lens' at the UNICEF HQ in New York in July 2016



H.E. Dr. Rohan Perera, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN delivers closing remarks following the panel discussion titled *No One Left Behind: Evaluating SDG's with an Equity-Focused and a Gender-Responsive Lens* co-sponsored by Sri Lanka together with UN Women, and several other collaborators, and held at the Ford Foundation in New York in July 2016

Save the Date

69TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION OF **SRI LANKA IN NEW YORK**



The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Community in the Tri-State area will celebrate Sri Lanka's 69th Anniversary of Independence.

On

Saturday, February 04th 2017

From

4.00pm onwards in Queens, New York

Venue: Forest Hills High School, 67-01 110St, NY 11375

All are invited to attend!

(Owing to limited availability, seating will be on a "first - come, first-served" basis)

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations will be publishing a biannual Newsletter commencing in 2017. A copy of the newsletter will also be available on the Mission website.
Editor in Chief: Ms. Sonali Samarasinghe, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, New York