Excellencies, Distinguish Participants,

Chair/ Moderator

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am Shiranthi Rathnayake, from Sri Lanka, I will speak about Sri Lanka’s experience, plans and progress in climate change and mitigation.

Climate change has become a major threat looming over the economic and social development of the country. Unmistakable signs of climate change are manifested by the growing frequency and intensity of extreme climate events. In the critical journey towards climate resilience, fostering strong partnerships among nations is indispensable for a unified and effective global response. Partnerships facilitate the exchange of information and best practices among different organizations. Collaborative partnerships often foster innovation by bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise. This is especially important in delivering on Sri Lanka’s strong commitments on the Nationally Determined Contributions on Climate action.

Sri Lanka has ranked as the one of the climatologically vulnerable country. Given the cross-cutting nature of climate change impacts, the public sector response strategy is oriented towards ‘mainstreaming’, which implies implementing activities pertaining to adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage management through relevant existing sectoral agencies. Major milestones of this process include formulating the National Climate Change Policy. It is in the final stage now. Further, when it is consider the programme and projects, We have included the DRR approach to our project appraisal process. We will link our social registry with the Disaster data to bring the adoptive social protection

Moreover, we are giving utmost priority to create a green economy in Sri Lanka to face the future with strength. The climate prosperity plan is the basis for the future vision of the sustainable development agenda. To this end climate finance unit establish in the Treasury with the highest level of policy support and steps are being taken to create the institutional structure that will support the implementation of Sri Lanka's Climate Prosperity Plan. Sri Lanka will set up a Climate Change University. The International Climate University will double as a “Centre of Excellence” for research-oriented activities in the area of climate while promoting
Local and international collaboration as well as linking available expertise including government and private sector academia etc.

Climate vulnerabilities affect every country and people. It is forcing migration due to floods, droughts, and cyclones, impacting agriculture, water, and livelihoods while exacerbating gender inequalities. Access to sexual and reproductive health service is disrupted and increased gender-based violence, particularly among vulnerable populations is seen, due to insecurity, stress and scarcity, during pandemics and following disasters. We need to prioritize strengthened health systems, sexual and reproductive health services, and data-driven assessments that consider the differentiated impacts of the climate crisis, including the impact on sexual and reproductive health.

Sri Lanka welcomes collaboration and partnership in addressing climate change including in knowledge generation, risk mitigation, financing and sustainable solutions.

Climate change knows no borders. Our response must be cross border to have any chances of success. This will also be our contribution to Cop-28 in a few weeks and we look forward to working with all countries to save our planet for our people.

Thank you