Forum on Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Businesses for Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka
08.30 – 13.30, Wednesday, 27 September 2023
Moonstone Amethyst Room, Hotel Hilton, Colombo, Sri Lanka

As Sri Lanka implements critical reforms to recover from its worst economic crisis, it will be critical that the economic reforms also support the development of a private sector able to contribute to inclusive and sustainable development. There is a strong policy rationale for promoting inclusive and sustainable enterprises. They provide solutions at scale to the problems of low-income people, promote environmental sustainability, increase opportunities for firms to explore new markets and access new finance, and promote innovation and economic diversification.

Sri Lanka is exploring the means to support economic diversification, business innovation and promote inclusive and sustainable growth. The latter requires a range of policies that encourage enterprise development, and in particular policies that seek to engage, facilitate and incentivize enterprises to develop businesses that support inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Sustainable Development Council in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) aim to support the development of a Strategy for private sector action towards inclusive and sustainable development in Sri Lanka.

This forum will present and discuss the proposed strategy to promote inclusive and sustainable businesses for sustainable development in Sri Lanka.

There will also be a small exhibition of inclusive and sustainable enterprises, including:

- Enterprises adopting inclusive and sustainable business practices
- Enterprises with inclusive business models, i.e. enterprises that provide enhanced income opportunities and access to affordable goods and services to low-income and marginalised groups
- Social enterprises - mission-driven organisations
- Enterprises supporting women’s economic empowerment

Objectives

- To generate awareness and mobilize support to promote inclusive and sustainable enterprises.
- To identify opportunities and concrete actions that can be supported and implemented in Sri Lanka that could promote inclusive and sustainable enterprises.
- To share new approaches that strengthen inclusive business models and provide a platform for networking between investors, governments agencies, development partners and firms.
- To showcase successful enterprises adopting inclusive business models.

The forum will be attended by representatives from relevant government agencies, businesses, financial institutions, development partners and civil society organisations.
08:30-09:00
Registration, online registration, and technical set-up

09:00-09:10
Exhibition of inclusive and sustainable businesses

09:00-09:10
Opening remarks and introduction to the forum
- Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Environment/ Member, Sustainable Development Council, Sri Lanka (05 minutes)
- Dr. Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP (05 minutes)

09:10-10:30
Session 1. Promoting an inclusive and sustainable businesses in Sri Lanka
This session will present the proposed strategy to promote the development of inclusive and sustainable businesses in Sri Lanka

Presentation of strategy: Ms. Chamindry Saparamadu, Director General, Sustainable Development Council (20 minutes)

Reflections
Moderated by Dr. Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP
- Hon. Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Industries (07 minutes)
- Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance (07 minutes)
- Mr. Ruwan Wijewardhane, Senior Presidential Advisor on Climate Change (07 minutes)
- Mr. Marc-André Franche, UN Resident Coordinator, Sri Lanka (07 minutes)

Interventions
- Ms. Thilaka Jayasundera, Secretary, Ministry of Industries (03 minutes)
- Ms. Renuka Weerakoon, Director General, Board of Investment (03 minutes)
- Ms. Gayani De Alwis, Vice Chairperson, Women’s Chamber of Industry and Commerce (03 minutes)
- Mr. Keerthi Gunawardena, President, Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL) (03 minutes)
- Mr. Kamal Dorabawila, Principal Investment Officer, International Finance Corporation (IFC) (03 minutes)
- SLYCAN Trust (03 minutes)

10:30-10:40
Pitch by inclusive and sustainable businesses

10:40-11:00
Networking Coffee & Tea Break

11:00-12:25
Session 2. Adopting inclusive and sustainable business models
This session will discuss several policy instruments to promote inclusive and sustainable business models, including those related to legal recognition, accreditation; coaching services; innovative finance; regulation

Moderated by Mr. Azam Bakeer Markar, Partnership and Engagement Specialist, UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, Sri Lanka
- Setting the direction /promoting inclusive business models - Ms. Marta Pérez Cusó, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP (10 minutes)
- Raising awareness and recognition- Ms. Selyna Peiris, Director-Business Development, Selyn Handlooms (10 minutes)
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<tr>
<td>12:25-12:30</td>
<td><strong>Open Discussion (30 minutes)</strong></td>
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<td>12:30-12:40</td>
<td><strong>Closing Remarks</strong></td>
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<td>12:40-13:40</td>
<td><strong>Networking Lunch</strong></td>
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- **Partnerships** - Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (10 minutes)
- **Promoting Access to Finance** – Mr. Tetsuya YAMADA, Chief Representative, JAICA Sri Lanka (07 minutes)/ Mr. Chandana Wanigasena, Vice President - MSME, DFCC Bank (07 minutes)
- **Access to Information and Reporting** - Mr. Rathika de Silva, Executive Director UN Global Compact Network Sri Lanka (10 minutes)