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Sri Lanka Statement to APFSD 2017

Session 2(b) on "Eradicating Poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing Asia-Pacific"

By Mr Uchita de Zoysa, Chief Negotiator for Sri Lanka & Advisor to Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife Sri Lanka

Thank you Chair,

1. Firstly, let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka to wish all delegates and stakeholders a successful APFSD 2017 and thank the secretariat for the hard work in preparation of this meeting. We consider APFSD as a vital regional platform towards collective work on the transformation in 2030.
2. Sri Lanka is deeply committed to implementing the transformational 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. On the 02nd of January this year, His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka proclaimed that Sri Lanka has now embarked on a Sustainable Era.
4. And in February this year Honorable Ranil Wickremasinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka tabled the Sustainable Development Act in parliament. This act will empower the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in order to facilitate the transformation towards a sustainable era in Sri Lanka.
5. In the nations commitment towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka also declared 2017 as the year of eliminating poverty.
6. Sri Lanka firmly believes that SDG 1 in ending poverty in all its forms everywhere is central towards achieving all goals and making the full transformation.
7. Further we recognize that poverty is multi-dimensional and solutions must be sort in a holistic and integrated manner. Therefore, ensuring quality and inclusive economic growth is vital for eradication of poverty.
8. Sri Lanka's success in poverty eradication programmes are well acclaimed and documented. However, the country further resolves to completely eradicate poverty in all its dimensions.
9. We also believe in the interlinked nature of the 17 SDGs, and that the success of poverty eradication would depend on achieving all the goals simultaneously.
10. Sri Lanka has conducted a broad linkages mapping of the 169 SDG targets and the institutional responsibilities, and embarked on mapping out coherence between the existing policies in preparation for a national SDG roadmap.
11. We have also initiated a stakeholder mapping that is critical in achieving cohesive and collective strategizing on eradicating poverty and implementing the SDGs.
12. We strongly believe that leaving no one behind in eradicating poverty and achieving the SDGs is vital towards an inclusive transformation.
13. Regional cooperation must take into consideration the disparities in prosperity, quality public services, trade opportunities, infrastructure, technology, financial and technical capacity, etc. when addressing poverty eradication and implementing the SDGs.
14. We are confident that APFSD would provide us that inclusive regional platform for regional cooperation and collaborations; a platform for member states and stakeholders in the region to deliberate openly and courageously towards an inclusive transformation and report to the annual High Level Political Forum with a collective voice.

Thank you!