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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

"සමපතපාය" අංක 82, රජමල්වත්ත පාර, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.
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திகதி }
Date }

Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFCCC Secretariat
Bonn, Germany

Dear Madam,

Early Submission of Information and Views

I am pleased to submit the following views of the Government of Sri Lanka on **Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (SBSTA)**.

As a vulnerable nation and having fragile ecosystems, Sri Lanka expects to have special emphasis on mountain ecosystems through future works of Nairobi Work programme. Sri Lanka has been divided into 3 climatic zones such as wet zone, intermediate zone and dry zone and 46 agro ecological zones. Most of these regions are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Sri Lanka can identify the significant variation of rainfall patterns and temperature escalations and it caused for the changes in ecosystem services and the vegetation patterns. Currently Sri Lanka is experiencing on the scarcity of water in dry zones including mountainous areas.

Mountainous ecosystems provide major role for enriching catchment areas of most of the rivers in Sri Lanka, regulation of hydrological cycle and the gaseous composition of the atmosphere, generation and maintenance of fertile soils, prevention of soil erosion, preservation of genetic resources etc. In the context of Sri Lanka, one of the major economical drivers is the tea industry. Sri Lanka is the world's third largest tea producer and the tea industry is one of the country's main sources of foreign exchange and annually contributing for 12% of the GDP in Sri Lanka. Tea plantations have been mainly established in mountainous areas of Sri Lanka and it is particularly rain fed farming crop. Accordingly, tea is highly vulnerable for the impacts of climate change. Taking in to account this situation, paying special attention on sustainable mountainous development is an urgent need.

"මේ මහලොව සහ ගහකොළ මිනිසාට මෙතම අහසේ පිසාකරන සිසානුවලද, මිනිමත කරන සිවුපාවුන්වද, සියලු සතුන්වද එකසේ අයිතිය."
"நாம் வாழும் இந்த பூமி மற்றும் மரம் செடி கொடிகள் மனிதனுக்கு மட்டுமன்றி வான் வெளியில் பறந்து திரியும் பறவைகள் மற்றும் பூமியிலுள்ள விலங்குகளுக்கும், ஏனைய அனைத்து விலங்குகளுக்கும் சொந்தமானது"

One of the latest inclusions on the list of World Heritage Sites, under UNESCO, is the Central Highlands region of Sri Lanka. This region is located in the south-central wet zone with mountainous ecosystems of the island. There are some of the most important conservational ecosystems of the country, including the Horton Plains National Park, the Peak Wilderness Protected Area, and the Knuckles Conservation Forest. This area is about 2,500m above sea level, and hosts an extraordinary variety of endangered flora and fauna, which are not found anywhere else in the country. Therefore, protecting these ecosystems, which are highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, are highly significant. Taking into consideration this situation paying special attention on mountainous fragile ecosystems during the climate change negotiation as well as inclusion of future works of Nairobi Work programme is highly recommended by Sri Lanka.

Further, Sri Lanka also requests to pay attention for the paragraphs 210-212 on **mountainous ecosystem** of the outcome of Rio+ 20 Conference. Accordingly, international support for the development of mountainous ecosystem is an urgent need.



Dr. R D S Jayathunga
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