

Statement made on behalf of the Sri Lanka Delegation to the SBSTA 44 at the  
“In-session workshop on the identification of adaptation measures, taking into account the diversity of  
the agricultural systems, indigenous knowledge systems and the differences in scale as well as possible  
co-benefits and sharing experiences in research and development and on the ground activities, including  
socioeconomic, environmental and gender aspects”

20<sup>th</sup> May 2016, Bonn, Germany

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- Thank you Mr. Co-Chair for the opportunity given, and good afternoon colleagues
- At the outset, Sri Lanka acknowledges that the presentations made by the IPCC representative Prof Mark Howden and other colleagues at this in-session workshop are extremely useful and have set the stage for further deliberations.
- Mr. Co-chair, extreme climate events have been affecting countries at the global scale and Sri Lanka is not an exception.
- Sri Lanka is now experiencing a serious crisis situation due to very heavy rainfall resulting in floods and landslides, which have already taken more than 60 lives and more than 130 people are missing to-date, due to floods and landslides.
- This statement is made on behalf of the Sri Lanka delegation at this backdrop.
- Mr. Co-chair, I would like to respond to the three questions posed by you to facilitate exchange ideas of the participants, in addition to the country submission made by Sri Lanka on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

Question 1: What experience does your country have with the identification of adaptation measures in the context of agriculture?

- Climate of Sri Lanka, an island nation in the Indian Ocean, has undergone a significant change over the years. We have experienced no rains when there is the need, and more rains at times when it is not wanted. High variability of rainfall and slow but steady increase in the environmental temperature, especially night temperature, were evident over the years. This situation has threatened the sustainable food security of Sri Lanka.
- Since 2010, Sri Lanka has been producing more rice (our major staple) than what we required. This is a cherished goal that each successive government had since independence in 1948. However, we have seen that the high variability of seasonal in rainfall over the years have affected the production and productivity levels rice, as well as other crops.
- The policy makers, scientists, academia, and agriculture practitioners (farmers) are cognizant of the impacts of climate change and have been making good progress in terms of adapting to such changes.
- Mr. Co-chair, I hereby present few examples for this audience in this regard to showcase the Sri Lanka experiences.
  - (a) Agro-ecological intensification to identify most suitable agro-ecological regions to cultivate crops – e.g. potato cultivation
  - (b) Release of short duration rice varieties (mature in 75-80 days) to escape as well tolerate drought.

- (c) Release of drought tolerant upland crop varieties
- (d) Promoting crop-livestock integration to enhance system resilience
- (e) Promoting timely cultivation with the onset of rainfall
- (f) Research to identify anaerobic/flood-tolerant rice varieties.
- To support such decision making, Sri Lanka has made attempts to provide seasonal climate forecasting for farmers. Some of the work has been carried out through international collaboration coming from CSIRO, Australia. Though we have not completely succeeded, there is lots of interest generated (with international collaboration). The Department of Meteorology of Sri Lanka is currently working on providing seasonal climate forecast with high accuracy to support the farming activities in Sri Lanka.

Question 2: How do various processes under the Convention facilitate the identification of adaptation measures observed in your country in the context of agriculture?

- Mr. Co-chair, guidance given by the Adaptation Committee, Nairobi Work Program, and COP decisions has been immensely helpful to facilitating adaptation measures in Sri Lanka in the context of agriculture
- Sri Lanka has developed the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), as a strategic plan. The NAPs was completed under the guidance of the National Experts Committee on Climate Change Adaptation. Soon, Sri Lanka will embark on more detailed action plans to be implemented under national and provincial level
- Mr. Co-Chair, I must also inform our colleagues that Sri Lanka has formed two national experts committees on climate change adaptation and mitigation, together with a high-powered Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee. The two experts committees meet every quarter and the inter-ministerial coordinating committee meets twice a year. The experts committee on climate change adaptation provides relevant advice and guidance to the Climate Change Secretariat of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (the focal point for UNFCCC in Sri Lanka) on climate change adaptation needs and was responsible for the development of NAPs for Sri Lanka.

Question 3: What are the potential areas for synergies among various processes under the Convention to facilitate the identification of adaptation measures in your country in the context of agriculture?

- Mr. Co-chair, the response of Sri Lanka to this question is simple.
- We need synergies between Research and Systematic Observation, Education, Training and Public Awareness, Technology Transfer Mechanisms and Financial Mechanisms to ensure adaptation in relation climate change issues in Agriculture.
- We also need synergies between various bodies established under the convention such as Adaptation Committee, Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), Adaptation Fund Board (AFB), LDC Expert Group (LEG), etc. to ensure effective adaptation taking place in our countries in the context of agriculture.
- I thank you Mr. Co-Chair once again for the opportunity given.

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