

Mr President,

Excellencies,

Ladies & Gentlemen

We are gathered here today, in this great city of Paris, which was threatened just weeks ago by senseless violence unleashed on the innocent.

As I salute the people of this city for their resilience, I am heartened by the unity of purpose with which we meet here today. We meet in peace and with compassion, to discuss and decide on ways to secure our only common home, this fragile Planet that we call Earth, for our future generations.

The impact of Climate Change threatens our very survival. In Sri Lanka, the adverse impacts are already obvious.

Domestically, we have developed a 'National Climate Change Policy' and prepared a 'National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy'. To implement these strategies, Sri Lanka's requirements could be approximated at around 500 million US dollars. We hope that there will be a common commitment to increase finance above 100 billion US dollars as agreed in Copenhagen in 2009, including through the Green Climate Fund, to especially help vulnerable developing countries prepare for climate impacts.

We have embarked on the challenging task of moving away from fossil-fuel-based energy, towards renewable energy.

We have already agreed to the proposed 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Our “Intended Nationally Determined Contributions” (INDCs) have been submitted and we endorse the Manila-Paris Declaration of the Climate Vulnerable Forum.

It is our vision to emerge as a leader in global eco-civilization by:

- Protecting nature, by limiting the use of natural resources to be within the sustainable ecological capacity of the country;
- Respecting critical social and environmental limits when striving for economic prosperity; and
- Building the resilience of vulnerable communities in the country by encouraging climate change mitigation through implementation of adaptation measures.

Mr. President,

Reaching a new Climate Change Agreement in Paris is of utmost importance to humankind.

The Paris Agreement, which would be applicable to all,

-should be in line with the UN Convention on Climate Change, its principles and provisions;

- should not hinder sustainable development agenda of developing countries;
- should focus on building resilience and include strong accountability and assessment measures that are transparent;
- should enhance the provision of financing, technology development, and transfer and capacity building by developed countries to developing countries; and
- should to send a strong signal of commitment by the world leaders, especially to businesses and financial markets.

We must seize this unique opportunity in Paris to create a turning point by recognising our universal responsibility to protect and safeguard our fragile planet for the benefit of all.

Thank you.