

**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF**   
**SRI LANKA**

**SRI LANKA NATIONAL COMMISSION**

**FOR THE UNESCOACT, No. 38 OF 2024**

**[Certified on 02nd of July, 2024]**

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| *Sri Lanka National Commission* | 1 |

*for the UNESCO Act, No. 38 of 2024*

[Certified on 02nd of July, 2024]

L.D.—O. 46/2008

AN ACTTOPROVIDEFORTHEESTABLISHMENTOFTHE NATIONAL COMMISSIONFORTHE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO); ANDFORMATTERS CONNECTEDTHEREWITHORINCIDENTALTHERETO.

WHEREAS Sri Lanka obtained the membership of the United Preamble Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization   
(hereinafter referred to as the “UNESCO”) in 1949, embracing   
the vision of UNESCO to contribute to the building of a   
culture of peace, eradication of poverty, sustainable   
development and inter cultural dialog through education,   
sciences, culture, communication and information:

AND WHEREAS Article VII of the Constitution of the UNESCO mandates each member to form a National Commission to function as agencies of liaison between the national government including the relevant public, semi-governmental, private and civil organization and the UNESCO and contribute in the advancement of the objectives of the UNESCO and in the implementation of the programmes in support of the UNESCO priorities:

NOW THEREFORE BE it enacted by the Parliament of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows:-

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Sri Lanka National Short title

Commission for the UNESCO Act, No. 38 of 2024.

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 *for the UNESCO Act, No. 38 of 2024*

PART I

ESTABLISHMENTOFTHE SRI LANKA NATIONAL COMMISSION   
FORTHE UNESCO

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| Establishment of the Sri Lanka  National  Commission for | **2.** (1) There shall be established a Commission which shall be called the Sri Lanka National Commission for the UNESCO (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”). |

the UNESCO

(2) The Commission shall, by the name assigned to it by subsection (1), be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in such name.

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| Objects of the  Commission | **3.** The objects of the Commission shall be- | |
| (*a*) | to assume, alone or in collaboration with other |

bodies, the responsibility for–

(i) operation of all the UNESCO funded or   
 related activities in Sri Lanka;

(ii) initiation, co-sponsorship and endorsement   
 of all the UNESCO resolutions, guidelines,   
 conventions and other instruments at the   
 UNESCO Executive Board and the UNESCO   
 General Conference;

(iii) Sri Lanka’s active participation in the   
 sub-regional, regional and international   
 UNESCO activities, ensuring benefit to   
 people of Sri Lanka without any   
 discrimination;

(iv**)** submitting nominations to the UNESCO

registries.

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(*b*) to link the relevant ministries, government   
 departments, semi government, non-government   
 and private agencies, institutions, organizations   
 and intellectuals and the people of Sri Lanka   
 effectively with the the UNESCO programmes and   
 activities securing the intellectual, scientific,   
 artistic or administrative resources and capacities   
 available in Sri Lanka;

(*c*) to develop international cooperation and   
 partnerships for Sri Lanka as envisaged in Article II   
 of the the UNESCO Constitution –

(i) in the planning and execution of activities   
 entrusted to the UNESCO which are   
 undertaken with the assistance of   
 organizations of the United Nations family   
 and other international institutions and   
 programmes;

(ii) to promote mutually beneficial UNESCO   
 programmes with the UNESCO affiliated   
 bodies and other international organizations   
 by conducting international, regional and   
 sub-regional activities with a view to   
 achieving the objectives of the UNESCO;

(*d*) to facilitate the exchange of information in areas   
 related to education, science, culture,   
 communication and information through local,   
 regional and global programmes organized by the   
 UNESCO and acting as a clearing house for   
 information in the related fields and disseminating   
 information to arouse public interest in those areas;

(*e*) to introduce the UNESCO conventions and other   
 international instruments to relevant Ministries for   
 ratification and follow up;

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 *for the UNESCO Act, No. 38 of 2024*

(*f*) to facilitate technical assistance to and capacity   
 building in Sri Lanka through the the UNESCO   
 system; and

(*g*) to contribute to the the UNESCO’s vision of   
maintenance of peace, security and the common   
welfare of mankind by participating in the activities   
of the UNESCO through education, science, culture,   
communication and information which are the main   
pillars of foundation of the UNESCO.

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| Powers, duties  and functions of the Commission | **4.** The powers, duties and functions of the Commission shall be to – | |
| (*a*) | develop and sustain international liaison, |

coordination, consultations and advocacy with all   
of the UNESCO system and activities;

(*b*) ensure appropriate representations and facilitate   
informed interventions by Sri Lanka at the the   
UNESCO General Conference, Executive Board

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| meetings, | summits, | conferences | and |

intergovernmental meetings;

(*c*) inform stakeholders, implement and monitor the   
 UNESCO conventions, resolutions and similar   
 instruments;

(*d*) initiate, fund, coordinate and monitor the UNESCO   
related programmes, Centres, Sites, Cities,   
Networks, Associations, Clubs, and Chairs in Sri   
Lanka in collaboration with the Sri Lankan   
stakeholders and support with technical assistance   
and capacity building through the UNESCO   
system;

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(*e*) appoint National committees, steering committees,   
 working committees, expert committees and   
 consultants in the UNESCO areas of competence   
 with specific terms of reference to support activities   
 of the Commission and decide on appropriate   
 remuneration for the committee members or   
 consultants;

(*f*) celebrate the UNESCO declared days, years and   
 decades, as relevant to Sri Lanka with stakeholders;

(*g*) disseminate information on and recommend   
 candidates for the UNESCO awards, fellowships,   
 the UNESCO chairs, study grants and other   
 programmes;

(*h*) obtain reports, information and data relating to all   
 such matters as may be necessary to enable the   
 Commission to effectively exercise, perform and   
 discharge any of its powers, duties and functions   
 under this Act, from government and non-  
 governmental institutions in Sri Lanka;

(*i*) exercise disciplinary control, including dismissal,   
 over the officers and employees of the Commission;

(*j*) erect, rent, equip and maintain such buildings and   
 memorials including offices, libraries, pavilions,

meeting halls and conference halls and the UNESCO   
plaques as are necessary for the discharge of its   
functions;

(*k*) exercise sufficient authority in financial   
 management to enable it to carry out efficiently the   
 functions of the Commission and to increase its

participation in the activities of the UNESCO;

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 *for the UNESCO Act, No. 38 of 2024*

(*l*) authorize, certify and permit relevant stakeholders   
 to conduct activities relevant to the UNESCO   
 mandate;

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| (*m*)  (*n*)  (*o*) | approve and issue operating manuals, guidelines and regulations to direct and facilitate the operations of the Secretariat;  disseminate information to the mass and digital media to reach out to the general public, individuals and institutions concerned on any aspect of the UNESCO’s objectives, programmes and activities;  receive and mobilize local (government or private) funds or foreign funds for the implementation of the UNESCO programmes: |

Provided that, notwithstanding anything to the   
contrary in any other provisions of this Act, the   
Commission shall obtain the prior written approval   
of the Department of External Resources in respect   
of all foreign funds;

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| (*p*)  (*q*)  (*r*) | pay annual and other membership or subscription fees to the UNESCO and the UNESCO affiliated bodies;  enter into and perform all such contracts and Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) as may be necessary for the exercise, performance and discharge of the powers, duties and functions of the Commission and conduct joint or independent studies, researches, deliberations and consultations on matters of interest to the UNESCO;  outsource money for appropriate payments in |

compliance with the relevant financial regulations,   
research, data collating or any other services or   
activities necessary for the smooth and efficient   
discharge of the duties and functions of the

Commission;

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(*s*) have the ownership of all research, any material or   
 data collected by any person for the purposes of   
 this Act and be responsible for the protection of   
 such research, material or data;

(*t*) administer and coordinate the UNESCO activities   
 and permit the use of the UNESCO approved logo   
 with the UNESCO listed sites and items and   
 activities and charge fees for such services;

(*u*) open and maintain, current, savings and deposit or   
 fixed accounts in any bank or banks and invest   
 such funds as are not immediately required for the   
 purposes of the Commission in such securities as it   
 may determine;

(*v*) accept gifts, contributions, grants or donations from   
 local or foreign sources, whether in cash or   
 otherwise, for the purpose of discharging the   
 functions of the Commission:

Provided that, notwithstanding anything to the   
contrary in any other provisions of this Act, the   
Commission shall obtain prior written approval of   
the Department of External Resources in respect of   
all foreign grants, gifts or donations;

(*w*) impose a levy on every visitor to the UNESCO heritage sites and biosphere reserves and other the UNESCO sites in Sri Lanka, calculated at such rate as may be prescribed by the Minister in consultation with the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance;

(*x*) acquire and hold, take or give on lease, mortgage   
 or hire, pledge or sell or otherwise dispose of, any   
 movable or immovable property, for the purpose of   
 discharging the functions of the Commission; and

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(*y*) enter into and perform all such contracts as may be   
 necessary for the exercise, performance and   
 discharge of the powers, duties and functions of the   
 Commission.

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| Constitution of  the Commission | **5.** The Commission shall consist of - | | |
| (*a*) | the following *ex- officio* members, namely - | |
| (i) | | the Minister or Deputy Minister or State |

Minister as the case may be, in charge of the   
subject of Education;

(ii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 or an Additional Secretary of such Ministry;

(iii) the Secretary to the Treasury or his nominee   
 not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to   
 the Treasury;

(iv) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assigned the subject of Foreign Affairs or an   
 Additional Secretary of such Ministry;

(v) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assigned the subject of Vocational Training   
 or his nominee not below the rank of an   
 Additional Secretary ;

(vi) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assigned the subject of Higher Education or   
 his nominee not below the rank of an   
 Additional Secretary;

(vii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assigned the subject of Science and   
 Technology or his nominee not below the   
 rank of an Additional Secretary;

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(viii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assigned the subject of Ocean or his nominee   
 not below the rank of an Additional Secretary;

(ix) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assigned the subject of Environment or his   
 nominee not below the rank of an Additional   
 Secretary;

(x) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assigned the subject of Culture or his nominee   
 not below the rank of an Additional Secretary;

(xi) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assigned the subject of documentary heritage   
 or his nominee not below the rank of an   
 Additional Secretary;

(xii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assigned the subject of Mass Media or his   
 nominee not below the rank of an Additional   
 Secretary**;**

(xiii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assigned the subject of Social Services or his   
 nominee not below the rank of an Additional   
 Secretary;

(xiv) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assingned the subject of Forest Conservation   
 or his nominee not below the rank of an   
 Additional Secretary;

(xv) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister   
 assigned the subject of Wildlife Conservation   
 or his nominee not below the rank of an   
 Additional Secretary;

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(xvi) an officer of the Central Cultural Fund   
 nominated by the Secretary to the Ministry   
 of the Minister assigned the subject of   
 Culture;

(xvii) the Conservator-General of Forest appointed   
 under section 58 of the Forest Conservation   
 Ordinance (Chapter 451);

(xviii) the Director-General of Wildlife appointed   
 under section 68 of the Fauna and Flora   
 Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469);

(xix) the Secretary-General of the Sri Lanka   
 NationalCommission for the UNESCO; and

(xx) the six Chairpersons of the six National   
 Committees established under section 15 of   
 this Act; and

(*b*) six members appointed by the Minister from among   
persons who have distinguished themselves in the   
fields of education, natural sciences, social and   
human sciences, culture, and communication and   
information(hereinafter referred to as the  
“appointed members”).

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| Chairperson and Vice  Chairperson of  the Commission | **6.** (1) The Minister shall be the Chairperson of the Commission.  (2) The Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister shall be |

the Vice Chairperson of the Commission.

(3) The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson shall hold office of the Commission, so long as he holds the office by virtue of which he has been appointed to the Commission.

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(4) Where the Chairperson is temporarily unable to exercise, perform and discharge the powers, duties and functions of his office due to ill health, other infirmity, absence from Sri Lanka or any other cause, the Vice Chairperson may act as the Chairperson in addition to his normal duties as the Vice Chairperson.

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| **7.** A person shall be disqualified from being appointed or continuing as an appointed member of the Commission, if he - | Disqualifications for being  appointed or  continuing as a |

member of the

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| (*a*) | is or becomes a member, of Parliament, any | Commission |

Provincial Council or any local authority;

(*b*) is not, or ceasesto be a citizen of Sri Lanka;

(*c*) is a person who, having been declared an insolvent   
 or a bankrupt under any law in Sri Lanka or in any   
 other country, is an undischarged insolvent or   
 bankrupt;

(*d*) is under any law in force in Sri Lanka or any other   
 country found or declared to be of unsound mind;

(*e*) is serving or has served a sentence of imprisonment   
 imposed by a court of Sri Lanka or any other country;

(*f*) holds or enjoys any right or benefit under any   
 contract made by, or on behalf of the Commission;

(*g*) has any financial or other interest as is likely to   
 affect prejudicially the discharge by him of his   
 functions as a member of the Commission; or

(*h*) is absent from three consecutive meetings of the   
 Commission without the permission of the   
 Commission.

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 *for the UNESCO Act, No. 38 of 2024*

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| Terms of office of the appointed members of the Commission | **8.** Every appointed member of the Commission shall, unless he vacates office earlier by death, resignation or removal, hold office for a period of three years from the date of his appointment and shall, unless he has been removed |

from office be eligible for re-appointment for not more than one further term, whether consecutive or otherwise.

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| Removal,  resignation etc.  of appointed  members | **9.** (1)Anyappointed member of the Commission may at any time, resign his office by letter in that behalf addressed to the Minister, and such resignation shall take effect from the date on which the resignation is accepted in writing by |

the Minister.

(2) The Minister may, for reasons assigned, remove any appointed member from office. An appointed member who has been removed from office shall not be eligible for re-appointment as a member of the Commission or to serve the Commission in any other capacity.

(3) In the event of the vacation of office by death, resignation or removal of any appointed member, the Minister shall subject to the provisions of section 5(*b*) appoint another person to fill such vacancy and such person shall hold office for the un-expired period of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds.

(4) Where any appointed member of the Commission is temporarily unable to perform the duties of his office on account of ill health or any other cause or if he is absent from Sri Lanka for a period of not less than three months, the Minister shall subject to the provisions of section 5(*b*) appoint any other person to act in place of such member during his absence.

(5) Where any appointed member of the Commission fails

to attend three consecutive meetings of the Commission

without notifying his absence in advanceto the Commission,

such member shall be deemed to have vacated his office and

the Minister shall appoint another person to fill such vacancy

subject to the provisions of section 5(*b*).

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| **10.** The Commission shall havethe General Conference every year to deliberate and resolve the following matters of the Commission:- | | General  Conference of  the Commission |
| (*a*) | recommend to the government on the UNESCO |

related activities including supporting, signing,   
ratification and adoption of the UNESCO   
conventions, agreements and major initiatives;

(*b*) recommend and approve the strategic plan of the   
 National Commission in line with the UNESCO’s   
 major programmes;

(*c*) recommend and approve activities and budgets of   
 the Secretariat and approval of annual action plan   
 and the annual budget of the National Commission;

(*d*) adoption of annual report and the responses to   
 Auditor General’s report;

(*e*) monitor and evaluate the performance of the   
 National Commission and recommend and approve   
 incentives for the staff of the Secretariat;

(*f*) delegation of powers to the Secretary-General of   
 the National Commission as deemed necessary; and

(*g*) make recommendations on study and consultative   
 reports produced by the Secretariat.

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| **11.** (1)The *quorum* for any meeting of the Commission shall be not less than one third of its total membership and every meeting of the Commission shall be presided by the | *Quorum* and the Meetings of the Commission |

Chairperson. In the absence of the Chairperson from any meeting of the Commission, any member elected by the members present shall preside at such meeting of the Commission.

(2) A meeting of the Commission may be held -

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 *for the UNESCO Act, No. 38 of 2024*

(*a*) by the number of members who constitute a *quorum*   
being assembled at the place, date and time   
appointed for the meeting; or

(*b*) by means of audio - visual communication by which   
all members participating and constituting a   
*quorum* can simultaneously see and hear every   
participating member for the duration of the   
meeting; or

(*c*) by the combination of both (*a*) and (*b*).

(3) All questions for decision at any meeting of the Commission shall be decided by the vote of the majority of the members present and voting at such meeting. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall, in addition to his vote, have a casting vote.

(4) The Commission shall meet at least once in every year. However, special or extraordinary general meetings may be convened, if and when required by the Chairperson of the Commission.

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| Acts or  proceedings of the Commission deemed not to  be invalid by  reason of any  vacancy  Remuneration of members of the Commission | **12.** The Commission may act, notwithstanding any vacancy among its members, and any act or proceeding of the Commission shall not be, or deemed to be, invalid by reason only of the existence of any vacancy among its members or any defect in the appointment of a member thereof.  **13**. The members of the Commission shall be remunerated in such manner and at such rates as may be determined by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister assigned |

the subject of finance.

Seal of the **14.** (1) The seal of the Commission –Commission

(*a*) shall be in the custody of such person as the   
Commission may decide from time to time;

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*for the UNESCO Act, No. 38 of 2024*

(*b*) may be altered in such manner as may be determined   
 by the Commission; and

(*c*) shall not be affixed to any instrument or document   
 except with the sanction of the Commission and in   
 the presence of two members of the Commission   
 who shall sign the instrument or document in token   
 of their presence.

(2) The Commission shall maintain a register of the instruments and documents to which the seal of the Commission has been affixed.

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| **15.** (1) The Commission may, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, the appoint such number of National Committees, experts and consultants as it considers | Establishment of the National  Committees |

necessary or expedient to assist in the exercise, performance and discharge of the powers, duties and functions conferred on, assigned to or imposed on the Commission by this Act.

(2) The National Committees appointed under subsection (1) shall be –

(*a*) the UNESCO National Committee on Education;

(*b*) the UNESCO National Committee on Natural   
 Sciences;

(*c*) the UNESCO National Committee on Social and   
 Human Sciences;

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| (*d*) | the UNESCO National Committee on Culture; | | | | on |
| (*e*) | the | UNESCO | National | Committee |

Communication and Information; and

(*f*) the UNESCO intersectoral National Committee   
 **(**falling within the UNESCO mandate).

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 *for the UNESCO Act, No. 38 of 2024*

(3) There shall be a Chairperson or Co-Chairpersons for each National Committee appointed by the Commission on the recommendation of the Secretary-General of the Commission.

(4) The members of the National Committees appointed under subsection (2), shall possess such qualifications and expertise in a particular field to effectively address the terms of reference of such relevant Committees.

(5) Every member of a National Committee shall, unless he vacates office earlier by death, resignation or removal, hold office for a period of three years from the date of his appointment and shall, unless he has been removed from office, be eligible for re-appointment for not more than one further term, whether consecutive or otherwise.

(6) In the event of the vacation of office by death, resignation or removal of any member, the Commission shall, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, appoint another person to fill such vacancy and such person shall hold office for the unexpired period of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds.

(7) Where any member of a National Committee is temporarily unable to perform the duties of his office on account of ill health or any other cause or if he is absent from Sri Lanka for a period of not less than three months, the Commission on the recommendation of the Secretary-General shall appoint any other person to act in place of such member during his absence.

(8) Where any member of a National Committee fails to attend three consecutive meetings of a National Committee without notifying his absence in advance to the Commission, such member shall be deemed to have vacated his office and

the Commission on the recommendation of the

Secretary-General shall appoint another person to fill such

vacancy.

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(9) The members of every National Committee experts and consultants appointed under subsection (1), shall be paid such allowances and be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in connection with the carrying out of any duties assigned, as the Commission may determine with the concurrence of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance.

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| **16.** The duties and functions of the National Committees established under section 15 shall be to – | | Duties and  functions of the National  Committees |
| (*a*) | advise and support the Commission to effectively |

implement the activities of the Commission and   
address any issue related to the UNESCO’s areas of   
competence;

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| (*b*) | study, | deliberate, | resolve | and | make |

recommendations on national policy, position and   
implementation of international the UNESCO   
initiatives, conventions, programmes and items   
presented to the UNESCO General Conference and   
the Executive Board;

(*c*) assist the Secretary-General guided by the   
UNESCO’s strategic areas, programmes and   
documents to develop, implement and monitor   
Programmes and projects of the Commission in the   
relevant areas;

(*d*) make recommendations on the annual action plan   
 and budget of each specialised area covered by a   
 National Committee; and

(*e*) do any other activity in support of the UNESCO   
activities as may be decided by the Commission on   
the recommendation of the Secretary-General.

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| **17.** The Commission may, from time to time, appoint *ad hoc* committees for specified purposes consisting of such number of memberships of the Commission or other persons, | Appointment of *ad hoc*  Committees |

or both with such powers, duties and functions as may be

determined by the Commission.

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 *for the UNESCO Act, No. 38 of 2024*

PART II

ESTABLISHMENTOFTHE SECRETARIATANDTHEAPPOINTMENTOFTHE SECRETARY-GENERAL, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERALAND THESTAFFOFTHE COMMISSION

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| Establishment of the Secretariat of the Commission | **18.** (1) There shall be established a Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretariat”) to assume, alone or in collaboration with other bodies, the responsibility to |

implement all decisions, directives, operations and finances of the Commission and to initiate, support, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate all activities related to this Act.

(2) The Commission may in writing and subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, delegate to the Secretary-General of the Commission appointed under section 19, the powers, duties and functions conferred on the Commission under section 4 and the Secretary-General of the Commission shall exercise, perform and discharge such powers, duties and functions in the name and on behalf of the Commission.

(3) The Commission may, notwithstanding any delegation made under subsection (2), by itself exercise, perform or discharge any power, duty or function so delegated and may at any time revoke any such delegation.

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| Appointment of the Secretary- General of the  Commission | **19.** (1) The Minister shall appoint a person who shall have not less than twenty years of academic or professional experience in the fields of education, natural sciences, social |

and human sciences, culture, communication and informationor international relations, as the Secretary-General of the Commission (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary-General”).

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(2) The Secretary-General shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission and shall be responsible for planning, executing, managing and monitoring all operations and affairs on behalf of the Commission, through the Secretariat including–

(*a*) providing a strategic vision and direction for the   
 overall structure and operations of the Secretariat;

(*b*) recruitment and management of staff to the cadre   
 positions as approved by the Commission;

(*c*) appointing such National Committees, *ad hoc*   
 committees, experts and consultants in the   
 UNESCO areas of competence with specific terms   
 of reference to support activities and assignments   
 of the Secretariat and recommend to the   
 Commission on appropriate remunaration for the   
 committee members, expertsand consultants;

(*d*) operational, administrative and financial   
 management of the Commission;

(*e*) the administration of the UNESCO Scholarship   
 Fund established under the UNESCO Scholarship   
 Fund Act, No. 44 of 1999;

(*f*) the submission of the annual action plan and the   
 annual budget prepared in accordance with the   
 annual work programme of the Commission,   
 assigned with the UNESCO’s programmes and   
 activities;

(*g*) preparing of the manual of procedures and   
 necessary revisions from time to time for the smooth   
 functioning of the Commission and the Secretariat;

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 *for the UNESCO Act, No. 38 of 2024*

(*h*) the management of the fund of the Commission;   
and

(*i*) the administration and management of the property   
 of the Commission.

(3) The Secretary-General shall be entitled to be present and speak at any meeting of the Commission, or any other Committee established under this Act.

(4) The Secretary-General may –

(*a*) delegate any of the functions of the   
Secretary- General to the Deputy Secretary-General   
or any other officer of the Secretariat as seem   
appropriate for the smooth discharge of   
responsibilities;

(*b*) with the approval of the Commission acquire and   
authorize such rights, privileges, powers, licenses   
and authorities as may be necessary for the   
performance and discharge of theduties and   
 functions;

(*c*) with the approval of the Commission enter into   
 agreements with institutions whether in Sri Lanka   
 or abroad having objects wholly or partly similar   
 to those of the UNESCO and the Commission for   
 collaborative activities and the exchange of   
 technical personnel;

(*d*) with the approval of the Commission and in   
consultation with the respective committees,   
nominate, support and fund suitable experts to   
attend the UNESCO meetings; and

(*e*) collect, print and publish reports, periodicals, books

and papers on subjects relevant to the UNESCO

priorities**.**

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(5) The Secretary-General may be paid such remuneration in such manner and at such rates as may be determined by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister assigned the subject of finance.

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| **20.** (1) The Minister shall appoint a person who shall have not less than fifteen years of academic or professional experience in the fields of education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, communication, | Appointment of the Deputy  Secretary- General of the  Commission |

administration or finance as the Deputy Secretary-General of the Commission (in this Act referred to as the “Deputy Secretary- General”).

(2) The Deputy Secretary-General shall assist the Secretary-General to exercise, perform and discharge the powers, duties and functions of the Commission and carry out the duties assigned by the Secretary-General.

(3) The Deputy Secretary-General shall function as the Secretary to the the UNESCO General Conference of the Commission.

(4) The Deputy Secretary-General may be paid such remuneration in such manner and at such rates as may be determined by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister assigned the subject of finance.

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| **21.** (1) The Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General shall hold office for a period of four years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for not more than one further term of office whether consecutive or otherwise. | Term of office  of the Secretary-General and the Deputy  Secretary- |

General

(2) The Minister may, for reasons assigned, remove the Secretary-General or the Deputy Secretary-General from office after considering and affording an opportunity to the Secretary-General or the Deputy Secretary-General as the case may be, to respond to any allegations made against them.

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(3) The office of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General shall become vacant upon the death, removal from office or resignation by letter addressed to the Minister.

(4) If any vacancy occurs in the office of the Secretary-General, the Minister may appoint the Deputy Secretary-General to perform the duties of the Secretary-General, until an appointment is made to such post.

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| Staff of the  Commission | **22.** (1) The Secretary-General may, with the concurrence of the Commission, appoint such number of officers and |

employees as he may consider necessary for the efficient exercise and discharge of its powers and functions, with the prior written approval of the Department of Management Services.

(2) The Commission may, in respect of the officers and employees appointed under subsection (1), exercise disciplinary control over or dismiss such officers and employees and determine the terms and conditions of employment of such officers and employees.

(3) The officers and employees appointed to the Commission shall be remunerated in such manner and at such rates, in consultation with the Minister assigned the subject of finance and shall be subject to such conditions of service as may be determined by the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.

(4) The Commission may establish and regulate provident fund schemes for the benefit of the officers and employees of the Commission who may be recruited outside of the government service and may make contributions to any such scheme.

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(5) Where any person is temporarily appointed to the staff of the Commission under subsection (1) such person shall be subject to the same disciplinary control as any other member of the staff of the Commission.

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| **23.** (1) At the request of the Commission and with the concurrence of the Minister, any officer in the public service may, with the consent of that officer and of the Public Service Commission, be temporarily assigned to the staff of the | Appointment of public officers to the staff of the  Commission |

Commission for such period as may be determined by the Commission with like consent, or be permanently appointed to such staff.

(2) Where any officer in the public service is temporarily assigned to the staff of the Commission, the provisions of subsection (2) of section 14 of the National Transport Commission Act, No. 37 of 1991 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to, and in relation to such officer.

(3) Where any officer in the public service is permanently appointed to the staff of the Commission, the provisions of subsection (3) of section 14 of the National Transport Commission Act, No. 37 of 1991 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply, to and in relation to such officer.

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| **24.** (1) At the request of the Commission, any officer or other employee of any higher educational institution established under the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 may, with the consent of that officer or the employee and the principal executive officer of that higher educational | Appointment of officers from  higher  educational  institutions to  the Commission |

institution, be temporarily appointed to the staff of the Commission. Such appointment shall be for a period as may be determined by the Commission or with like consent be permanently appointed to such staff, on such terms and conditions including those relating to pension or provident fund rights, as may be agreed upon by the Commission and such principal executive officer.

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(2) Where any person is temporarily appointed to the staff of the Commission under subsection (1) such person shall be subject to the same disciplinary control as any other member of the staff of the Commission.

PART III

FINANCE

Capital of the **25.** The initial capital of the Commission –Commission

(*a*) shall be such sum as may be determined by   
Parliament by resolution; and

(*b*) may be increased by such amounts as may be   
authorized by an Appropriation Act or by any   
resolution of Parliament.

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| The Fund of the Commission | **26.** (1) The Commission shall have its own Fund. |

(2) The Fund of the Commission shall comprise of -

(*a*) all such sums of money as may be voted from time   
to time by Parliament;

(*b*) all such sums of money as may be received by the   
Commission by way of interest on investments,   
donations, gifts or grants from any source   
whatsoever, whether within or outside Sri Lanka:

Provided however, the Commission shall obtain   
the prior written approval of the Department of   
External Resources of the Ministry of the Minister   
assigned the subject of Finance, in respect of all   
foreign grants, gifts or donations made and loans,   
donations, gifts, bequests and grants received from

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any source within Sri Lanka shall be credited to the   
Consolidated fund and shall thereafter, with the   
approval of the Parliament, be credited to the Fund   
of the Commission;

(*c*) all sums of money received as income from   
investments made by the Commission; and

(*d*) all such money levied as fees and contributions.

(3) There shall be paid out of the Fund of the Commission -

(*a*) all such sums of money as are required to defray   
 any expenditure incurred by the Commission in   
 the exercise, performance and discharge of its   
 powers, duties and functions under this Act; and

(*b*) all such sums of money as are required to be paid   
 out of the Fund by or under this Act.

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| **27.** Any moneys belonging to the Commission may be invested by the Commission in such manner as may be deemed appropriate subject to such directions as may be | Investment of  the moneys of  the Commission |

given by the Minister.

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| **28.** (1) The financial year of the Commission shall be the calendar year.  (2) The Commission shall cause proper books of accounts | Financial year and Audit of  accounts of the Commission |

to be kept of the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities and all other transactions of the Commission.

(3) The provisions of Article 154 of the Constitution relating to the audit of the accounts of public corporations shall apply to, and in relation to the audit of the accounts of the Commission.

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PART IV

GENERAL

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| Directions of the Minister | **29.** (1) The Minister may, from time to time, give such general or special directions in writing to the Commission |

as to the exercise, performance and discharge of the powers, duties and functions of the Commission and it shall be the duty of the Commission to comply with such directions.

(2) The Minister may, from time to time, order all or any of the activities of the Commission or the Secretariate to be investigated and reported upon by such person or persons as he may specify, and upon such order being made, the Commission and the Secretariate shall afford all such facilities and furnish all such information to such person or persons as may be necessary to give effect to such Order.

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| Commission report to be  placed before Parliament | **30.** The Commission shall, within a period of six months after the closure of each financial year, submit a report giving a full account of its activities during that year to the Minister who shall cause such report to be placed before Parliament, |

prior to the end of the year next following the year to which such report relates.

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| All members of the Commission etc. deemed to be public  servants  Provisions of the Anti-Corruption Act, No.9 of  2023 to be  applied | **31.** All members of the Commission, officers and employees of the Commission shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning and for the purpose of the Penal Code (Chapter 19).  **32.** The provisions of Chapter I of Part III under the Heading “Offences relating to Bribery or Corruption” of the Anti- Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023, shall *mutatis mutandis* be deemed to be applicable to or in relation to, the provisions |

of this Act.

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| **33.** (1) Any expense incurred by the Commission in any suit or prosecution brought by or against the Commission before any court shall be paid out of the Fund of the Commission, and any costs paid to, or recovered by, the Commission in any such suit or prosecution shall be credited | Protection for  action taken  under this Act or on the directions of the  Commission |

to the Fund of the Commission.

(2) Any expenses incurred by any person in any suit or prosecution brought against him before any court in respect of any act which is done by him under this Act, or on the direction of the Commission shall, if the court holds that such act was done in good faith, be paid out of the Fund the Commission, unless such expense is recovered by him in such suit or prosecution.

**34.** (1) The Commission may make rules in respect of –Rules

(*a*) the appointment, employment and dismissal of   
 various officers and their powers, duties and   
 functions;

(*b)*  the procedure to be observed at the summoning   
 and holding of meetings, annual general meeting   
 and extraordinary meetings of the Commission;

(*c*) the administration and management of the affairs   
 of the Commission; and

(*d*) all matters in respect of which, rules are required or   
 authorized to be made under this Act.

(2) Every rule made under subsection (1) shall be approved by the Minister.

(3) Every rule approved by the Minister shall, within three months from its publication in the *Gazette*, be brought before Parliament for its notice.

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Regulations **35.** (1) The Minister may make regulations in respect of all matters which are required by this Act to be prescribed or authorized to be made under this Act.

(2) Every regulation made by the Minister shall be published in the *Gazette*, and shall come into operation on the date of such publication or on such later date as may be specified in the regulation.

(3) Every regulation made by the Minister shall, within three months from its publication in the *Gazette*, be brought before Parliament for approval. Any such regulation, which is not so approved shall be deemed to be rescinded as from the date of disapproval, but without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder.

(4) Notification of the date on which any regulation is deemed to be rescinded under subsection (3), shall be published in the *Gazette.*

Interpretation **36.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires-

“expert” means a professional with specialised   
competence in any one of the areas of the   
UNESCO programmes;

“Minister” means the Minister assigned the subject   
of Education under Article 44 or 45 of the   
Constitution;

“UNESCO” means the United Nations Educational,   
Scientific and Cultural Organization;

“UNESCO system” means the UNESCO   
headquarters, regional offices, field offices,

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| National | Offices, | liaison | offices, |

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Commissions, Networks, Category 01 and   
Category 02 centers, UNESCO Heritage sites,   
Biosphere reserves, UNESCO Cities and   
UNESCO Clubs, Associations and Chairs and

any other additions to the system by the   
UNESCO resolutions;

“UNESCO activities” means programmes, projects   
and all other activities carried out by the   
UNESCO system;

“Stakeholders of the Commission” means   
government institutions, semi-governmental   
institutions, Non-governmental Institutions,   
Statutory bodies, Private Institutions,   
Associations, international organizations,

Individuals and Intellectuals engaged in the   
UNESCO areas of Competencies in Sri Lanka;

“UNESCO areas of competencies” means   
Educational, Scientific and Cultural, Social   
and Human Sciences and Communication   
and Information areas;

“UNESCO Programmes” means the UNESCO areas   
of competence and includes Education,   
Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences,

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| Culture | and | Communication | and |

Information.

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| **37.** In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail. | Sinhala text to  prevail in case  of inconsistency |

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