

Statement made by Mr. Mapa Pathirana, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment at the High Level Segment of 23rd Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change (COP23) and 13th Session of the Conference of Parties serving as a Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP13), 06-17 November 2017 in Bonn, Germany.

Mr. President of COP23 and CMP13

Executive Secretary to the UNFCCC Secretariat

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

It is indeed a great pleasure and a privilege to deliver this statement on behalf of the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka extends its gratitude to the government of Morocco for a successful Presidency of COP22 while congratulating to the government of Fiji for its historic role in being the first Small Island State to preside the COP23. Also, Sri Lanka wishes to extend its appreciation to the government of Germany for the excellent arrangements made for this COP, their warm hospitality and kind reception. Sri Lanka fully associate with the statement made by Ecuador on behalf of the Group77 and China.

Mr. President, Sri Lanka is a developing country, which is highly vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change. These impacts are felt on a daily basis by the people of Sri Lanka, due to aggravated natural disasters, losses and damages, which hinder the sustainable development of the country. In order to address the climate change adverse impacts effectively, Sri Lanka concerns the need for COP 23 to continue in advancing the Work Program of the Paris Agreement, towards its completion in 2018. Further, it is needed to advance the work of designing the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue. Sri Lanka is ready to engage constructively in the textual work that is needed for the operationalization of the Paris Agreement, and

stress the need for it to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

Mr. President, Sri Lanka is committed to its obligations under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and has submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. Steps have been taken at the national level, to prepare for the implementation of the commitments such as developing a Readiness Action Plan for the implementation of its NDCs. Sri Lanka has also prepared its National Adaptation Plan, and is in the process of developing a national mechanism, to focus on loss and damage due to climate induced disasters, as well as mainstreaming climate change into the national development priorities of the country.

Sri Lanka is committed in increasing ambition. The 2018 national budget of Sri Lanka is already inclusive of actions related to the implementation of NDCs on different sectors. While Sri Lanka takes action on its NDCs through national capacity in line with the country's unconditional targets to increase ambition, Sri Lanka needs support for technology transfer, capacity building, as well as finance for implementing the conditional part of its NDCs.

Sri Lanka also reiterates that countries' national circumstances need to be reflected in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and the diversity and the nationally determined characters of NDCs need to be respected. Climate actions need to be inter-linked with the sustainable development initiatives of the country, and be integrated into the socio-economic development planning of the country. Support for developing countries that is balanced for mitigation, adaptation is important, as well as finance for actions to address loss and damage due to climate change impacts also highly significant.

Mr. President, Sri Lanka would like to stress the need for all financial flows provided and mobilized taking into account the needs and priorities of developing country parties. In the face of increasing number and intensity of extreme weather events, there is an urgent need for effective action on the provision of financial resources, including for technology development and transfer and capacity building to developing countries in order for minimizing the losses and damages. It is also important that capacity building should be based on national needs and foster country-ownership; the process must be participatory as well as crosscutting.

Adaptation is a key priority for Sri Lanka, similar to other developing countries. Sri Lanka considers adaptation communications as a means for enhancing adaptation action and support and serving as a clear input to the Global Stocktake as a tool to achieve the global goal on adaptation. It is important that the guidance must reflect the country-driven nature of adaptation and aim to enhance the adaptive capacity, reduce vulnerability and increase resilience without creating additional burdens on developing countries.

Finally, Mr. President, we recall the need for inclusive, gender sensitive and participatory climate action, which extends to the inclusion and participation of vulnerable communities, and multiple stakeholders including civil society, private sector, youth and women, strengthening public participation.

I thank you, Mr. President