

*Delegation from*  
Sri Lanka

*Represented by*  
Frankfurt School of Finance & Management

*Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary (GA PLEN)*

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary are: 10-Year Review of the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals; Elimination of International Terrorism; and Climate Change/Environmental Degradation as a Source of Conflict. Sri Lanka takes sustainable human development and the promotion and preservation of peace very seriously.

**I. 10-Year Review of the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals**

Important progress towards the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been made since the Millennium Declaration in 2000, but there are only five more years until the target date. Sri Lanka draws attention to the fact that significant challenges remain. Urgent action has to be taken. The Human Development Report 2003 already stated that “nationally owned, nationally driven development strategies guided by sound science, good economics and transparent, accountable governance” are necessary. A Millennium Development Compact was set out, defining a framework for definite action of both poorer countries and donor countries. Sri Lanka calls upon Member States to follow and, if necessary, revise these guidelines. Furthermore, we urge Member States to take into account recent publications, such as the MDG Gap Task Force 2009, so as to be aware of the crucial steps that need to be taken. The Sri Lankan Government itself closely cooperates with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in its aim of promoting sustainable human development in the country. Considerable achievements have already been made in key areas such as education and health. However, even here, many tasks remain. Therefore, Sri Lanka is still in need of support, even though its grant aid as a new middle income country could decline due to the MDGs strategy to steer this aid to low income countries. Sri Lanka urges States to address the concerns of the Millennium Development Goals Report 2008, such as bearing in mind the long-term importance of reaching the MDGs whilst confronting new challenges caused by the current global financial crisis and global warming. As the Millennium Development Goals Report 2009 states, there have even been deteriorations in the global fight against poverty and hunger due to the economic and food crises. We would like to draw attention to the fact that overall global progress has to be considerably accelerated for the Goals to be reached by 2015. It is true more than ever that global collective effort is needed to reach the final goal of ending poverty. Consequently, Sri Lanka calls upon Member States’ leaders to participate at the Millennium Development Goals Summit this September.

**II. Elimination of International Terrorism**

Nearly four years ago Sri Lanka adopted the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. In implementing this strategy as well as other international conventions on combating terrorism we call for greater cooperation of all States to make it clear to terrorist groups that there will be no space for terrorism to succeed. As we have had to fight against terrorism in our own country in the last decades, we have experienced both the impact of terrorism and recognize the need to insistently act against it. Out of experience, Sri Lanka sees the need of concrete action which should be multidimensional, interconnected and coordinated. There should be more mutual assistance and international cooperation to ensure that terrorist groups do not acquire transnational capabilities or regional hubs. Therefore, Sri Lanka urges Member States

to act in accordance with resolution S/RES/1566 to make coverage on terrorism more inclusive. It is absolutely necessary as described in S/RES/1373 for all states to eliminate the financing of terrorism, and furthermore, freeze all the financial assets of Al Qaida and Taliban associates, as was called for in S/RES/1267. Although the UN already implemented some instruments to combat the problems of international terrorism, it has not enough capacities. Hence, Sri Lanka supports all efforts to extend the instruments and mechanisms which help to prevent financing of terrorist activities. It is important that the UN include into considerations not only Member States but also different kinds of organizations and groups which try to combat terrorism. Through the Global Strategy, other multilateral and international mechanisms and instruments can be synergized. We propose to draft a global campaign, including the UN and its Member States, private organizations and citizens, to clearly send the message that terrorism of any kind will not be tolerated. For this purpose, we strongly advise the use of powerful communication media like the internet to a greater extent for coordinated action and cooperation between Member States if the UN. Terrorists should not be spared but fought with all existing instruments. As we showed in the past, this is a successful way to prevail over terrorists.

### **III. Climate Change/Environmental Degradation as a Source of Conflict**

Sri Lanka is dedicated to the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and particularly the Kyoto Protocol. Both are crucial for reducing the emissions and ultimately minimizing atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases. We have adopted the Clean Development Mechanism for Sustainable Development defined in the Kyoto Protocol and call upon Member States to follow suit. We also urge Member States to commit to the UNFCCC and Bali Action Plan principles; in particular, those on equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. As stated in the Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC 1997), Article 12, paragraph 8, we call upon developed countries to offset their carbon debt by footing the major part of developing countries' costs of adaptation. Adaptation, both by developed and developing countries, is essential. As pointed out at the 2007 Colombo launch of the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) annual Human Development Index Report (which focused on the impact of climate change on poverty) health, water supply, food security and coastal area vulnerability are the biggest problems for poorer countries. Sri Lanka itself is faced with these challenges. In 2004, as many other states, it was severely hit by the Tsunami. Climate change increases the risk of such natural catastrophes. The 2007 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Action Plan, the 2008 Dhaka Declaration on Climate Change and the 2008 Colombo Summit Declaration emphasized the necessity of restoring harmony with nature, and drawing on ancient South Asian cultural values and traditions of environmental responsibility and sustainability. We emphasize the need of initiatives on the national level of each Member State to strengthen domestic action. Sri Lanka, accordingly, has designed a National Action Plan, "The Green Lanka Programme" as the Road Map for achieving sustainable development and established a National Council for Sustainable Development.