Comments of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment of Sri Lanka on Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly

"Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production"

Vision: To develop partnerships towards sustainable and innovative societies , focusing on innovative solutions to key environmental challenges, building on the theme of pollution free planet incorporating the outcomes from previous sessions of the Environment Assembly.

The political message from the Ministers will be informed by the 6th Global Environment Outlook report on key environmental challenges as well as the report of the International Resource Panel on the global status of resource efficiency.

Main priority 1: Ensure the transparency, accountability, accuracy and comparability of global environmental data and develop science-policy-business partnerships on innovative data technologies and digital solutions.

- Establish comprehensive environmental monitoring systems (including citizen observations and satellite monitoring) to improve , collection and analysis of data and foster cross- border environmental monitoring data exchange, (for example establishing monitoring system in the form of pilot projects on global real-time monitoring of air and water quality, land degradation, and deforestation).
- Ensure everyone has a fair and where possible electronic access to environmental data and develop secure and accessible monitoring databases.
- Develop digital solutions to gain better knowledge on global resource use and productivity, including introducing global product information factsheets in order to make informed decisions.
- Engage regions, countries and municipalities to collect and analyze environmental data, and develop technologies and apps and make scientific discoveries through citizen science.
- Enhance integrated use and analysis of environmental data from various sources (smart devices, mobile applications, environmental monitoring and research).
- Develop global environmental data policy and common data standards and transform such policy to national levels.

Main priority 2: Foster sustainable and efficient resource management by promoting dematerialization, decarbonisation and detoxification , to enhance ecosystem resilience and protection of the planet's natural systems.

- Fully implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

- Accelerate the transition towards circular economies and the application of life-cycle approaches and sustainable procurement for sustainable materials management, in a manner that fosters economic growth, improves competitiveness, creates jobs and safeguards social benefits.

- Foster innovative governance mechanisms that integrate circular economy principles and frameworks into national policies.

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- Ensure sound waste management with the special focus on air, water, food, plastics

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- Promote sustainable land management to maintain soil health, combat desertification, and ensure food and water security.
- Introduce global product sustainability criteria to stimulate the market for secondary raw materials and sustainable products.
- Campaign for responsible and ethical marketing.
- Accelerate and activate sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and ensure transparent funding of eco-innovative solutions.
- Develop a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) beyond 2020 to ensure non-toxic material cycles and manufacturing of healthier products.
- Commit to accelerate the implementation of the Aichi Targets and consider a new time frame going beyond 2020, to improve the health of the world's ecosystems.

Main priority 3: Support robust engagement of civil society, citizens, business community and academia in promoting innovative approaches for meeting global environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption.

- Allocate adequate resources for research and development to drive innovation for the environment.
- Ensure access to environmental education worldwide and promote sustainable lifestyles through a wider uptake of innovative approaches in education.
- Identify and promote the wider application of indigenous knowledge about environmentally friendly practices.
- Support the creation of new, innovative business opportunities to eradicate poverty and establish infrastructure for new greener economy.
- Engage citizens in improving their rural and urban environment, green infrastructure and nature based solutions.
- Use information communication technology for resource conservation (for example office automation and reducing the need for travel and mobility).
- Promote and raise awareness for sustainable tourism.

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