



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Comments on the Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document

Version, 29 June, 2020

The COVID – 19 Pandemic has brought light to the importance of biodiversity on wellbeing of the planet. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework is at the forefront of environment fora across geographical borders and social strata proving the severity of biodiversity loss and its impacts on human survival. In this limelight, Sri Lanka welcomes the draft outline document for the Ministerial outcome document which strongly reflects biodiversity concerns. Nevertheless, addressing pollution related matters is essential to overcome the barriers to change in a post – Pandemic world.

Whether it be biodiversity, pollution, climate change or any other environmental theme, it is well understood that the severity of environmental issues of today and the difficulties in finding impactful solutions is a result of scientifically, socially and economically defragmenting the actual issue. Hence, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) has to be the forum where such defragmentation could be addressed in its uniqueness across other arms of the United Nations.

In this context, Sri Lanka suggests that Ministerial Outcome Document to be more specific on;

- i. Establishing a strong regular monitoring mechanism on implementation of resolutions embedded to the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Two-way continuous communication process has to be encouraged ensuring Member States to structure national development absorbing policy guidance of UNEA.
- ii. Implementation of resolutions has to be resource efficient. Resolutions which addresses multiple sustainable development goals (SDGs) and solutions agreed with related environment conventions and protocols has to be allocated sufficient resources while not undermining any resolution.