

Environment Sector

Mr. Chairman, I would like to present here the steps that Sri Lanka has taken to mitigate the impact of Climate Change.

Sri Lanka is vulnerable to the impact of climate change largely due to critical dependence on water resources for biodiversity, food security, and livelihood and power generation. During last few year period there is an increasing trend to having hydro-meteorological disasters. To address this issue, Sri Lanka initiated several national programme to increase the forest cover, reduce the carbon emission and protect the watersheds and catchments. During last five years, forest cover in Sri Lanka has increased in 15 percent. More than 4 million trees have been added to the national tree stocks during last four years by planting nearly 1.1 million trees per year. In addition to the above, 10 ha of new forests on major hilltops, water sheds and catchments have been established. Through the reforestation programmes nearly 6,993 ha of bare lands have been afforested in addition to maintaining 37,396 ha of commercial forests. To address the issue on carbon emission, the government raised its funds by 35 percent on solid waste management. Further, it also implements vehicular emission testing and air quality monitoring regularly to maintain their quality at steady level ranging less than 64 µg per a cubic meter. Further, we regularly check the water quality of river basins as well as air quality. Finally, I would glad to say that the benefits of our initiative are not for our own country but also the whole world. Hence I propose from the development partners to give the support for extending above programme.