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Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife & Regional
Development

**Practitioner-to-Practitioner Forum
on**

**Strengthening Capacities of Public Administration
in Island States**

***Equipping Public Institutions, Strengthening Resilience and Building Effective
Partnerships for Implementing the 2030 Agenda from an Island States
Perspective***

20 to 24 August 2018

Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA)
28/10, Malalasekara Mawatha, Colombo
Republic of Sri Lanka

Co-organized by

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development of Sri Lanka

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

United Nations - Sri Lanka

BACKGROUND

Adopted in 2015 by all United Nations Member States, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to achieve the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as a holistic and interdependent agenda to be achieved in both developed and developing countries. It aspires to “leave no one behind” and calls for a special effort to ensure that Island States make rapid progress towards realizing the SDGs. The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda with its seven targets and indicators embedded across the SDGs. The Sendai Framework advances the achievement of eleven goals, particularly 1,2,3,4,5,6,9,11,13,14 and 15 among others to ensure resilience¹ in progress on sustainable development across all Member States.²

For Island States with finite borders come finite resources, especially in terms of natural resource constraints, requiring them to address sustainable development and resilience strategies in tandem. Island states are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the increasing intensity and frequency of natural disasters.³ The pursuit of more collaborative and coordinated efforts to deal with increasingly limited resources is required as global progress towards meeting disaster risk reduction targets.⁴ The growing risks from climate change continue to impact all countries, with the most vulnerable least able to cope. SIDS are faced with unique and particular challenges due to their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks.⁵

As an island economy forging a sustainable development pathway, Sri Lanka's economic progress is increasingly being planned in accordance with the country's commitments to the 2030 Agenda. In July 2017, Sri Lanka released a national statement during the 2017 High Level Political Forum, in which it provided detailed information on the key institutional arrangements the country has established in support of SDG implementation. In 2018, the Government has further elaborated on its sustainable development achievements through its Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the 2018 HLPF, on the theme of “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”.⁶

In line with the above, the learning objectives of the Forum are implementation and results-oriented, based on the outcomes of the 2018 HLPF. At the conclusion of the visit, it is expected that participants will have:

1. Increased knowledge of results-based management in realizing resilience, including through planning and policy design, management of funds, partnerships and stakeholder engagement;
2. Increased awareness to support the integration of the SDGs in national development plans and policies through evidence-based policymaking, institutional coordination and policy coherence to achieve the SDGs in line with national public administration systems;
3. Strengthened skills to help mobilize resources, technologies and other means to strengthen public service delivery and implement the SDGs from national to local levels, ensuring that no one is left behind;
4. Compared partnership models and stakeholder engagement mechanisms for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
5. Examined key dimensions of disaster risk reduction (DRR) with enhanced awareness of proven good practices to strengthen resilience including through information and communication technology (ICT) innovations.

¹ UNISDR defines resilience as “The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management”. https://www.preventionweb.net/files/50683_oiewgreportenglish.pdf

² https://www.unisdr.org/files/50438_implementingthesendaiframeworktoach.pdf

³ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/176899/ewp-466.pdf>

⁴ UNISDR Strategic Approach to Capacity Development for Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction A Vision of Risk-Informed Sustainable Development by 2030. Accessed at https://www.unisdr.org/files/58211_fullconciseguide.pdf

⁵ SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway, Paragraphs 51-52 of the 2014 Outcome document. Online at: <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1537>

⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018#prep>

Day 0 – Monday – 20 August 2018

Time	Agenda Item	Objective
18:00 – 19:00	Welcome Reception	Informal gathering

Day 1 – Tuesday – 21 August 2018

Time	Agenda Item	Objective
09:00 – 09:30	Registration	
09:30 – 10:15	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Wasantha Pereira, Director-General, Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Sandith Samarasinghe, Monitoring Member of Parliament and Minister Delegate, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development • Mr. Terence Jones, UN Resident Coordinator, a.i. • Mr. Chae Gun Chung, Head, Project Office on Governance, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN DESA • Mr. Animesh Kumar, Deputy Head, Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, UNISDR 	Welcome remarks from host institution and organizers and introduction of visiting delegates.
10:15 – 10:30	Group Photo and Coffee Break	
10:30 – 12:30	<p>SESSION 1 – Strategic Planning for an Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Transformation</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, Programme Expert, UN DESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming the SDGs in National Planning and Institutional Arrangements Mr. Chae Gun Chung, UN DESA • Implementing Global Frameworks in Coherence: The Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Mr. Animesh Kumar, UNISDR <p>Question & Answer (Q&A) Session</p> <p>Strategic Planning for a Sustainable and Resilient Society from an Island Perspective – <i>National Cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sugath Yalegama, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife, and Regional Development • Mr. Nazir Soobraty, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development, Mauritius • Mr. Meleti Bainimarama, Permanent Secretary for National Disaster Management, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Fiji • Ms. Helen Maiche, Public Sector Reforms, Department of Public Administration, Office of the President, Seychelles <p>Question & Answer (Q&A) Session</p>	Examining the most effective scenarios for strategic planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda at horizontal and vertical levels of public governance, with a focus on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 targets and its interlinkages within the 2030 Agenda.

Regional Voices in Implementing Global Frameworks

- Ms. Teea Tira, Coordinator, Strategic Program for Climate Resilience Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
- Ms. Gina Bonne, Head of Mission, Indian Ocean Commission

Question & Answer (Q&A) Session

12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	SESSION 2 – Addressing Institutional Gaps for SDG and the Sendai Framework Implementation Moderator: Ms. Sandra Aslund, Coordination Specialist, Office of the Resident Coordination, United Nations in Sri Lanka <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An Overview of Institutional Capacity Needs for the SDGs Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, Programme Expert, UN DESA• Gap and Strengths Analysis for Achieving Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Ms. Ana Thorlund, Global Education and Training Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction (GETI), UNISDR• Working Group Session: Identifying DRR/DRM implementation gaps in current plans and strategies (Sendai Framework Priorities)• Reporting Back to the Plenary	This session will examine institutional methodologies to identify institutional gaps and strengths. Through a working group exercise the session will aim to address institutional capacities in better planning and implementation of national strategies.
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee and Networking Break	
15:15 – 17:30	SESSION 3 – Planning for Inclusive Governance Mechanisms that Drive Resilience Moderator: Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, UN DESA SESSION 3.1 Engaging Civil Society Leaders in the SDGs <i>Case study exercise on civil society engagement in conducting the 2018 HLPF Voluntary National Review – Lessons Learned in Sri Lanka</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Sugath Yalegama, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and Regional Development• Ms. Sandra Aslund, Coordination Specialist, Office of the Resident Coordination, United Nations in Sri Lanka SESSION 3.2 Empowering Women for Building Resilience <i>Policy exercise on ensuring disaster risk planning is gender inclusive</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Madhavi Malalgoda Ariyabandu, National Consultant, Disaster Recovery and Resilience Building, UNDP Sri Lanka• Ms. Ana Thorlund, UNISDR	Framework presentation on planning mechanisms to ensure inclusive governance for resilience. Interactive one-hour exercise on stakeholder engagement and inclusion, focusing on planning and monitoring for the SDGs and Resilience. Applied exercise on women's empowerment through inclusion in governance for DRR.

Day 2 – Wednesday – 22 August 2018

Time	Agenda Item	Objective
09:00 – 10:30	SESSION 4 – Monitoring, Review, and Follow-up in the Context of the SDGs and Sendai Framework Targets Moderator: Mr. Chae Gun Chung, Head, UNPOG, DPIDG, UN DESA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring for the SDGs – Building towards the 2019 VNR	Reflecting on SDG implementation with a focus on monitoring, review and follow-up and the Sendai Framework case. Discussion on the Sri Lanka's preparatory work

	<p>Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, Programme Expert, UN DESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary National Reviews: The Case of Sri Lanka Dr. Sugath Yalegama, MSDW • National DRR Strategies: Achieving <i>target e</i> of Sendai Framework Mr. Animesh Kumar, Deputy Head, UNISDR ROAP Ms. Ana Thorlund, UNISDR • Engaging other stakeholders in setting the targets, follow up, and review Mr. Animesh Kumar, Deputy Head, UNISDR ROAP 	<p>for HLPF 2018 and SDG monitoring at national level. Overview of VNRs from the participating country perspectives. Discussion on progress enablers for SDG/Sendai monitoring.</p>
Question & Answer (Q&A) Session		
10:30 – 11:00	Working Coffee Break	
11:00 – 12:00	<p>SESSION 5 – Strategizing on Means of Implementation (Mol) for Resilience in SIDS Moderator: Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, UN DESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Teea Tira, Coordinator, Strategic Program for Climate Resilience Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat • Ms. Gina Bonne, Head of Mission, Indian Ocean Commission • Ms. Helen Maiche, Public Sector Reforms, Department of Public Administration, Office of the President, Seychelles • Ms. Ana Thorlund, UNISDR 	<p>Examining the needs and priorities for SIDS in terms of technology, finance, and capacity development to achieve the SDGs, with a presentation of project models and progress for resilience from the Indian and Pacific Oceans.</p>
Question & Answer (Q&A) Session		
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	<p>SESSION 6.1 – Transformation towards a Sustainable and Resilient Society - ICT Innovations for Disaster Risk Management Moderator: Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, UN DESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Government and Open Data for Resilience in Singapore Mr. Justin Lee, Senior Manager (Strategic Planning & International), Government Technology Agency, Singapore • Exploring Frontier Technologies for Digital Governance: Artificial Intelligence, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) – UN DESA • Selected Country Cases Mr. Mohamed Aflah, Environment Officer, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives Ms. Moana Fakava-Kioa, Senior Assistant Secretary for Disaster Risk Management, National Emergency Management Office, Tonga 	<p>Reflecting on resilience in public services delivery and public governance through ICT and digital government. Exploring innovations in ICT to ensure resilient planning and disaster risk reduction.</p>
Question & Answer (Q&A) Session		
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee and Networking Break	
15:30 – 17:00	<p>SESSION 6.2 – Transformation towards a Sustainable and Resilient Society – Implementing ICT Innovations in Practice Facilitators: Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, UN DESA and Ms. Ana Thorlund, UNISDR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group Session: Identifying challenges, risks, vulnerabilities and solutions for technology transfer 	<p>Applied exercise and working groups on how to implement innovations in ICT for resilience amid rising challenges for Island States with climate change.</p>

- Reporting Back to the Plenary

Day 3 – Thursday – 23 August 2018

Time	Agenda Item	Objective
09:00-12:00	SESSION 7 – Site Visit	
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 16:30	SESSION 8 – Site Visit	

Day 4 – Friday – 24 August 2018

Time	Agenda Item	Objective
09:00-10:30	<p>SESSION 9 – Financing Resilience: Building Resilience for Climate-related Disasters Moderator: Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, UN DESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Teea Tira, Coordinator, Strategic Program for Climate Resilience, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat • Ms. Gina Bonne, Head of Mission, Indian Ocean Commission • Mr. Ranga Pallewala, CEO, Janathakshan <p>Question & Answer (Q&A) Session</p>	Applied learning on Climate Finance to strengthen knowledge of government finance, readiness, and lessons learned in navigating financing mechanisms.
10:30-10:45	Coffee and Networking Break	
10:45-12:00	<p>SESSION 10 – Financing Resilience through National Budgets and Mechanisms Moderator: Ms. Ana Thorlund, UNISDR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience in Government Budgeting Sri Lanka's Blue-Green Budget Initiative Ms. Shiranthi Ratnayake, Deputy Director General of National Planning Department, Government of Sri Lanka • Mr. Ahmed Husain, Head of Executive Office National Committee for Disaster Management, Ministry of Interior, Bahrain • Ms. Raatu Aretaake, Senior Sector Economist - Outer Islands, Social, and Environment, National Economic Planning Office, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Kiribati <p>Question & Answer (Q&A) Session</p>	Discussing national cases and <i>How Tos</i> of ensuring financing and managing finances in disaster risk reduction and resilience. Examining Green Initiatives in Sri Lanka's 2018 Blue-Green Budget
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	

13:30 – 14:30	SESSION 11 – Exploring Trends and Cases of Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Resilience Moderator: Ms. Ana Thorlund, UNISDR	Exploring policies that unlock private sector financing and partnerships for resilience; including innovations in financial products for development such as green bonds, national to micro-insurances and more.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Meleti Bainimarama, Permanent Secretary for National Disaster Management, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Fiji • Mr. Ahmed Husain, Head of Executive Office National Committee for Disaster Management, Ministry of Interior, Bahrain • Mr. J. A. D. Siriwardena, Assistant General Manager, National Insurance Trust Fund, Sri Lanka 	
Question & Answer (Q&A) Session		
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee and Networking Break	
15:00 - 16:00	SESSION 12 – The Partnership Marketplace: Action Planning on Opportunities for South-South Cooperation and SDG Co-Implementation in the Context of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway Facilitator: Ms. Sara Castro-Hallgren, UN DESA	Setting up partnerships between the officials working on resilience and the SDGs and the country representatives for follow up. Evaluation of Forum.
16:00 – 17:00	Closing Remarks	Certificates of completion to be presented to country participants in recognition of their work during the Forum.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate Ceremony • Word of Thanks 	