

Roadmap of Provincial leaders Sri Lanka : Towards localising the SDGs in our cities and provinces

We, chief ministers, chief secretaries, commissioners, mayors, directors, local authorities and their associations, have gathered in Durban and Johannesburg on a learning exchange on the sustainable development goals and urban management between 10th – 13th May 2016. We express our appreciation on the hospitality of the metropolitan government of eThekweni, Durban and of the City of Johannesburg, supported by the Sri Lankan High Commission. This learning initiative is a follow up on the learning on SDG 8 that was held by UCLG, FSLGA, UCLG-ASPAC and ILO on local economic development and decent work- understating SDG8 in Negombo, Sri Lanka.

We appreciate also the leadership and support of United Cities and Local Governments, SALGA, MILE and their partners such as the UNDP ART programme to accompany and setting the context of South-South triangular cooperation, and enable our association FSLGA to coordinate the strategic exchange that enable local and provincial authorities from the South to share knowledge, experiences and good practices.

More specifically, we herewith would like to declare our commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals already approved by the Government of Sri Lanka in the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2015. We, as local and provincial government elected and officials, consider the implementation of the SDGs at the local level an important priority. We are committed to support our national SDG strategy and plan through raising awareness at the local level, promote dialogue and engage our local institutions for promoting an integrated response to our local development challenges.

As we commit to support the implementation of the SDGs in our territories we will reach out and request current partners to support in particular to build robust evidence that enables our country, provinces and municipalities to monitor progress and improvement over the next 20 years. We will request our national government to approach the United Nation system in Sri Lanka to provide tailored support for an integrated effort of the provincial and local government spheres to elaborate base lines, identify indicators, promote SDG based local planning systems, support integrated and cross sectorial implementation and finally design monitoring systems to measure progress.

We are committed to transform the opportunities arising from the new 2030 agenda into SDG inspired policies that will finally assure that the international commitment of a universal new development agenda will also have real impact on the lives of our citizens.

At the same time, the capacity of leaders of the South to deliver their roles and responsibilities should continuously be strengthened by our government with the support of external and international actors. These actors can enhance the understanding, dynamics, and proficiency of local governments. Peer learning and other SS and triangular territorial partnerships as promoted by UCLG members and partners such as ILO, UNDP and UN Habitat will allow us to exchange and learn from other territories thereby assuring that our efforts are not only shared within our country but also with other territories world-wide.

We hereby pledge to begin the process of communicating and coordinating policies and activities in our provinces, and will also explore further application of lessons learnt with the city governments of eThekweni, Durban and Johannesburg and the provincial government of Kwa Zulu Natal. The details of these activities (including collaboration on a range of key areas such as solid waste management, performance monitoring, strategic planning being more customer focussed and strengthening good governance and nation-building) will be unpacked over the next six months. We hereby commit to undertake these activities within broad strategic frameworks that our Provinces will champion, supported by facilitation offered by our South African counterparts. To make this a reality, we will rely on the inspiration of our national association FSLGA , SALGA as well as UCLG and partners.

Signed in Johannesburg on this 13th day of May 2016

Chief Ministers of Democratic socialist republic of Sri Lanka:

Hon Sarath Ekanayake - Central Province

Hon Mahipala Herath – Sabaragamuwa Province

Hon Shan Wijelal De Silva – Southern Province

Hon Peshala Bandara Jayaratne – North Central Province

Hon Naseer Ahamed – Eastern Province

Hon Dharmasiri Dasanayake – North Western Province

Hon Chamara Sampath Dasanayake – Uva Province

Hon Isura Devapriya – Western Province