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MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AND NATIONAL POLICIES

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Your No

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திகதி } 02.01.2023
Date

Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
Secretary, Ministry of Defence
Secretary, Ministry of Education
Secretary, Ministry of Environment
Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries
Secretary, Ministry of Health
Secretary, Ministry of Industries
Secretary, Ministry of Investment Promotion
Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms
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Secretary, Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment
Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Lands

Identifying nationally appropriate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Targets

1. Sri Lanka endorsed the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nations General Assembly Sessions held in September 2015, along with 192 other countries. Underpinned on the three dimensions of Sustainable Development, economic, social and environmental, the 2030 Agenda presents a holistic development framework through 17 Development Goals and 169 Targets.

2. In pursuance of its commitments, Sri Lanka implemented a range of measures, among which, are the enactment of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Act, No. 19 of 2017 by the Parliament, establishment of the Sustainable Development Council as the national SDG focal agency, integration of SDGs in national policies and development plans and launching of the National SDG Data Portal as an integrated reporting platform. Further, the Government is taking several initiatives to mobilize the required resources for financing the SDGs.
3. The above has enabled Sri Lanka to maintain steady progress on SDG achievements, such that, Sri Lanka's global ranking on SDG performance has shown an upward trend over the past years as per the assessments of the Global Sustainable Development Reports compiled by independent international experts.
4. However, Sri Lanka is also confronted with a myriad of challenges in achieving, in full, its SDG commitments by the target year of 2030. The current economic downturn is likely to have far reaching impacts on Sri Lanka's ability to achieve the SDGs, further widening the funding gap for SDGs, a common challenge faced by most developing nations. There is a real threat of reversal of SDG progress hitherto achieved by the country.
5. Accordingly, identification of national SDG targets is crucially important to direct planning and resources towards SDGs and monitor and evaluate progress in order to ensure that Sri Lanka remains on track to achieving the SDGs by the target year 2030.
6. Against this backdrop, the Inter-ministerial Steering Committee on SDGs that convened on 13th October 2022 decided to request all ministries to identify nationally appropriate SDG targets in line with the respective mandate of each ministry, taking into consideration the national context.

Accordingly, I request you to:

1. Take necessary action to identify SDG targets relevant to your Ministry in discussion with the institutions coming within the purview of the Ministry and the Sustainable Development Council, the Department of National Planning, the Department of National Budget, the Department of Project Monitoring and Management, the Department of Census and Statistics, as appropriate.

The attached draft template (including the relevant SDG Targets, Indicators, Baseline Data, Current Status and Proposed National Target Values) developed by the Sustainable Development Council, in discussion with the relevant Treasury Departments, maybe used as a guide in conducting the above exercise.

2. Communicate to the Director General, Sustainable Development Council (Telephone: 011-3421908/ email: info@sdg.gov.lk) by 15th February 2022 whether the

proposed target values in the attached template are appropriate or in the alternative, the new target values identified by the Ministry based on the operational realities.

Your kind attention and immediate action in this regard is highly appreciated.

Mahinda Siriwardana
Secretary to the Treasury

Copy:

1. Secretary to the President
2. Secretary to the Prime Minister
3. Director General, Department of National Planning
4. Director General, Department of National Budget
5. Director General, Department of Project Monitoring and Management
6. Director General, Department of Census and Statistics
7. Director General, Sustainable Development Council – for follow up with the Ministries

