

***Delegation from  
Sri Lanka***

***Represented by  
Frankfurt School of Finance & Management***

***Position Paper for General Assembly Second Committee (GA 2)***

The topics before the General Assembly Second Committee are: Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development, Promoting Low-Carbon Economic Growth in the Developing World and Protecting Developing Countries during the Current Financial Crisis. As a developing country, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is directly affected by these topics and calls upon developed Member States for greater support.

**I. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development**

Sri Lanka endorses the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summits on the Information Society held in Geneva and Tunis in 2003 and 2005. Our belief in the ability of ICT to improve the economy, commerce and trade is based on our own experiences. In Sri Lanka, the spread of ICT gave rise to huge growth opportunities not only for the ICT sector, but also for healthcare, banking, safety and security markets, and education.. However, Sri Lanka still has a very low broadband penetration. Also, citizens must be better educated about the benefits of ICT, and costs of high speed internet must be lowered in order to reach all segments of society. We believe from our experience that ICT is the driving force for development in a country, and we therefore want to emphasize article 4 of the Declaration of Principles from the World Summit on the Information Society, which states that no one should be excluded from the benefits of the Information society. Recalling A/RES/56/183 and following resolutions, Sri Lanka also encourages developing Member States to follow our example in working together with local stakeholders and aid agencies in order to develop and implement e-development concepts. We call upon Member States to become leaders in broadband promotion and development in accordance with A/RES/64/187. Broadband access shall become a public utility service similar to education and health. Sri Lanka also proposes to promote a reduced fee for international calls (within the South Asian region) in order to bridge geographical (and cultural) barriers between people soon. We caution Member States against the insecurity of the cyber space that exposes our children to predators such as pedophiles, drug dealers and pornographic sites. Sri Lanka has banned pornographic and similar destructive sites from being available through internet service providers and the use of mobile telephones. This is another important area for world leaders to focus on. As we have shown, there are many areas which the UN still needs to address, in addition to our urgent request that the Plan of Action put on paper at the World Summits be followed, not to cause frustration for those Member States that are in dire need of ICT.

## **II. Promoting Low-Carbon Economic Growth in the Developing World**

By signing and ratifying the Kyoto Protocol Sri Lanka has shown its awareness of the ongoing global climate change and has acknowledged that the emission of green house gases must be significantly reduced in the near future. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka expects a double-digit economic growth rate throughout the next years, caused by the overall recovery after Sri Lanka's last civil war which ended in May 2009. Sri Lanka fears the impacts of binding international limits on green house gas emissions on the developing countries' economies. These countries may in no case be limited in their ability to grow. In order to meet both requirements, the first being protection of the environment, the second being unprohibited economic growth, the developed countries must not only call for limitations in green house gas emissions but also provide help to developing countries. Sri Lanka calls upon the most developed countries to establish a sustainable transfer of funds, technology and knowledge to developing countries to promote low-carbon economic growth. Without their help, developing countries will not be able to fight climate change and will fall even further behind in regard to economy. This would not improve, but worsen the situation of most developing countries, including Sri Lanka. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka will not accept any agreement that threatens its economy.

## **III. Protecting Developing Countries during the Current Financial Crisis**

Being classified as a developing country by the UNDP's Human Development Index, the question of economic protection during the current financial crisis is of utmost importance for the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. According to the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ajith Nivard Cabraal, the country has only minor relationships with the financial institutions that have got into difficulties. Sri Lanka has also not been involved in major CDS trades or the sub-prime market throughout the past couple of years. The present government has recently shifted the economic policy to focus on the domestic market, which proved to be the right decision to prevent large scale impacts arising from the international turmoil. Sri Lanka thus does not face major direct threats from the current financial crisis. Nevertheless there are several indirect threats to the republic's economy, with higher costs of credits on the international markets, decreasing exports and the huge amounts of money flowing out of Treasury Bonds and Bills since 2008 being the most striking ones. Although it has prepared its economy to face severe economic crises throughout the past, the Republic of Sri Lanka still calls upon the United Nations to address the direct and indirect impacts of the biggest recession since the 1930s to secure sustainable economic growth in all developing countries. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka aims to reform the international financial markets to be simpler and allow more straightforward financial intermediation. In a long-term perspective, Sri Lanka regards highly regulated international financial markets as the only possibility for developing countries to access liquidity without the help of international organizations like the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund.