

Delegation from
Sri Lanka

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Position Paper for General Assembly Third Committee (GA 3)

The topics before the General Assembly Third Committee are: Advancing Technology to Progress Peace and Development; The Implementation of a Global Standard of Education; and Implementing the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is devoted to conduct to the efforts taken by the United Nations as far as in our scopes to ensure international peace and security as well as humanitarian, cultural and economic prosperity as stated in the United Nations Charter Chapter One.

I. Advancing Technology to Progress Peace and Development

Sri Lanka categorises technology as essential to advance ecologically and economically. Especially developing countries will profit from improvement as they are facing more humanitarian problems such as diseases that can be eliminated through further medical research to advance technology on the health field. As the industrialized countries have more funds and instruments they should intensify their efforts to eradicate poverty in order for the international community to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As the international community faces the same challenges such as poverty, starvation, war and insecurity Sri Lanka encourages member states to find a mutual solution. Besides governmental help our focus lies on cooperation with the private economy sector. For decades the industrialized countries with their rush to develop have polluted the environment, rivers and burnt the world's limited fossil fuels. As less developed countries are striving to accelerate their development our environment will be strongly damaged. Referring to A/RES/63/212 and the MDGs, however, there is a need for the industrialized countries of the western hemisphere to endeavour and ensure those goals as they may take the main responsibility and can contribute the most. The main focus lays on sustainable technologies, e.g. expert knowledge about solar plants, not only to be installed in the developing countries as an investment for the own interest in the measures of the Joint Implementation. In contrary, the local residents should be involved in the process to uphold the complex as well as operating and updating it. Equipped with expert knowledge and required infrastructure countries of the southern hemisphere will soon be able to operate their own complexes as well as to transfer their knowledge to other developing countries in the process. Only in this way as all the nations join forces the MDGs can be achieved as the first step and the challenge of climate change can be combated. Sri Lanka therefore asks for the High Body to develop a fundamental resolution. A cornerstone can be set for the transfer of technology and expertise supporting our aims to achieve an adequate result to stop global warming and ensure development for everybody as has been stated in the Human Rights Declaration Article 6.

II. The Implementation of a Global Standard of Education

Education is an essential Human Right, as stated in Article 26 of the Human Right Declaration, which Sri Lanka has included in its constitution. It is our ambition to eliminate any illiteracy in the world. The United Nations has adopted the Millennium Declaration in 2000 including its second goal to achieve universal primary education. The necessary importance to reach this goal is a result of the huge accessorily positive aspects linked with education. Amongst others education ensures the reduction of poverty, increase of welfare and healthiness. Moreover, to the UN Millennium Declaration, the Education For All

Initiative (EVA) and the Dakar Framework as a amelioration were added in 2000. Member States should allocate separate budgetary provision; restructure the school system and training to all teachers and principals in new curricula. Furthermore, an equitable resource allocation mechanism is absolutely required. With these measurements Sri Lanka was able to accomplish a literacy rate of 90% and a primary school completion of 95%. For improvement of the international situation, the implementation of literacy standards is necessary for a successful education process and the UNESCO should, as before, take the main responsibility to reach international education standards. To fulfil these guidelines, financial funding is essential and therefore national and especially international financial institutions such as the World Bank should help Member States. Irrespective of the economic situation, it is indispensable to invest in primary education, as education provides a protection from poverty. In conclusion, we urge Member States to release more detailed guidelines for the further improvement of international education standards, which have to be implemented by the UNESCO.

III. Implementing the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka essentially supports the superordinate targets of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development and appreciates the effort which has been taken by Member States to the progress. In order to stress our accomplishment we especially refer to the Asia Pacific Declaration on Armed Violence and Development which has been supported by Sri Lanka in 2008. It is significantly important to improve the manner of our execution for achieving our mutual aims. The Geneva Declaration is the postulate for an adequate approach to disarming and development as a general declaration. However, as for the further procedure, Sri Lanka strongly recommends individual solutions for individual countries with individual problems and cultures as concerning armed violence and development. Sri Lanka has successfully brought the end to the civil war, which has been lasting for over two decades. Despite the United Nation's assistance concerning the humanitarian situation during and after the civil war, the conflict itself was solely solved by the Sri Lankan government. Furthermore, in the aftermath the the Sri Lankan Government created a National Recovery Plan to guide the process of resettlement and reconciliation which has been welcomed by the UNHC Navanetham Pillay. This leads to the conclusion that in order to solve regional conflicts the United Nations need to take part as consultants especially for recovery and welfare. For the further implementation of the Geneva Declaration, Sri Lanka pleads to search national solutions and sees a need for the General Assembly to define the role of the United Nations consultants.