



Statement by **Hon. Mohideen Abdul Carder**
Deputy Minister of Environment & Renewable Energy,
Democratic, Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
at the High level Segment of the First United Nations Environment Assembly
23 - 27 June 2014 Nairobi, Kenya



Honorable Chairmen, Hon. Heads of States, Hon. Ministers, Heads of the UNEP and distinguished delegates,

It is indeed an honor for me to speak at this important First United Nations Environment Assembly on behalf of the Government and the people of Sri Lanka. I am extremely happy to be with you all at this memorable event in this beautiful city, Nairobi situated in Kenya.

As a country party to the UNEP, the national efforts made by Sri Lanka to achieve the objectives of the UN Conventions are noteworthy. Environmental concerns were included in to the all relevant sectors and National Development Programme. Environment related programmes which make significant contribution to improve status of

environment protection and sustainable utilization of natural resources have been conducted by my country in satisfactory manner. In addition, Sri Lanka has been reported as one of the few countries that have achieved remarkable progress on the environment related Millennium Development Goals.

We have set a target ahead to become the “Emerging Wonder of Asia” our challenge is to achieve that target while conserving our unique Environment and ecosystem services for future generations too. In this context Sri Lanka has used some unique methods of safeguard the Environment while striving for economic development.

Recently Sri Lanka elevated to lower middle income country. Our economic growth is higher than 7%. This made Environment conservation is a challenge.

To become an environment friendly green country, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapakse, Head of the state of my country introduced the National Development Policy “Mahinda Chinthanaya” with basic and required principles of Environment Management and Conservation. The main reasons of the present day national achievements in the areas of protection of environment and greening the economy are political leadership of His Excellency the President and his vision to develop green country.

The Haritha (Green) Lanka Action Plan was prepared according to the global and national commitments, and “Mahinda Chinthana” Vision for the Future and is presently being implemented by my Ministry.

May I take this opportunity to urge the Heads and Environment Ministers of member states to provide the much needed urgent political impetus at this stage of implement key programmes to achieve the Conservation and Protection of Environment with the Biodiversity Conservation, Prevention of Environment Pollution and Combat Land Degradation to promote sustainable development.

As you can see, while we may have unique histories and mandates, and in some cases different Parties, we are joined by a common objective of supporting the conservation and Protection of Environment and by a collective desire to see more effective implementation of convention and protection at the country level, including through making best use of National Action Plans of Biodiversity Conservation, Pollution Control and Combat Land Degradation.

Finally, on behalf of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka I would like to thank for the Chairman of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to organize and host this important event.

I thank you.