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## Internal Memorandum


Economic Affairs Division

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**To** : Actg. Additional Secretary/EA, Protocol, Ocean Affairs, Climate Change and Environment

**Subject** : **ESCAP Speech - Ms Priyanka, Executive Director (Research & Policy Advocacy), BOI**

**Signature** : Actg. Director General/Economic Affairs (Multilateral) 

**Reference** : EA/UNESCAP/12 II

**Date** : 20 February 2023

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Ms Priyanka Samaraweera, Executive Director (Research & Policy Advocacy) of the BOI has nominated to participate at the at the First Session of the Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation, which is scheduled to be held from 22-24 February 2023 in Bangkok.

Please find enclosed herewith the Country Statement to be delivered by Ms. Samaraweera for your approval please.

Please note that the Statement is in line with the national policy on SDG's and the investments and recommend the approval of same. **(Ends)**

Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise and Business Innovation United  
Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

Agenda Item 4

Mobilizing impact investment and foreign direct investment for sustainable development

**Country Statement Sri Lanka**

Good Morning

Excellencies, Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to thank ESCAP for honoring me with the opportunity to address this distinguished gathering and share our experience, today.

Sri Lanka's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is explicit in our national policies and development plans and we believe that the economic transformation of the country is strengthened by green growth and social inclusivity.

As the country moves forward with its ambitious development agenda, the catalytic role that FDI has to play as the best, non-debt source of foreign exchange, becomes vital in economic development of the country.

As the premier institution in Sri Lanka, mandated to promote and attract FDIs, BOI Sri Lanka always focus on attracting investments that contributes towards achieving SDGs as envisaged in the 2030 UN Agenda.

**The importance of being align with SDGs has been well understood** and, it has been articulated in the BOI Strategic Framework which presents a strategic approach in targeting and securing significantly higher levels of quality and sustainable FDI to Sri Lanka.

BOI is a partner in developing Sri Lanka SDG Investor Map, a tangible market intelligence tool to direct private capital towards achieving country's SDGs. The country has identified investment opportunities across 05 key sectors (healthcare, renewable energy, food and beverage, consumer goods and infrastructure) and currently, we are having a series of sector deep-dive workshops, align to the key investment opportunity areas and sectors. Application of technology, gender equality and climate are cross cutting themes that were explored for these sectors.

In this backdrop, Sri Lanka is encouraged to learn of the FDI work of ESCAP on gender, the digital economy and climate change and we believe that engagement with ESCAP would create a platform for countries like Sri Lanka to obtain technical assistance and capacity building to attract sustainable FDIs to the country.

For example, capacity building in lead generation and pitching the Island, as a promising destination for sustainable investment and to source impact investment funds targeting start-ups are key areas that we seek assistance for.

I am happy to state that, BOI, as the facilitator of investments in Sri Lanka, is always committed to assist investors to establish their sustainable investment ventures and ensure smooth implementation and continuous operations within the island.

With all the positive initiatives implemented by BOI to strengthen its facilitation role, such as establishment of Investor Facilitation Centre (IFC), Digitization of BOI functions, promoting re-investments and introduction of partnership finder database, etc., BOI contributed to create an investment friendly environment to attract much needed FDI to the country while assisting existing BOI enterprises to continue with their functions amidst various economic challenges.

I believe that, the series of sessions held during this week, was very fruitful and it will provide a platform to furthering Sri Lanka's capacity in achieving SDGs.

Let me conclude by expressing my appreciation to UN ESCAP for the opportunity provided to share Board of Investment of Sri Lanka's experience on this occasion.

Thank you.