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வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள் அமைச்சு  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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வருடாந்த செயலாற்றுகை அறிக்கை  
**Annual Performance Report**

**2022**

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# CONTENTS

<b>CHAPTER-1- INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Vision and Mission	2
1.3 Duties and Functions	3
1.4 Organogram	5
1.5 Network of Diplomatic Missions/ Posts abroad	6
1.6 Divisions Architecture	7
<b>CHAPTER-2 - PROGRESS AND FUTURE OUTLOOK</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Diplomatic Outreach of Sri Lanka	7
2.2 Regional and Multilateral Engagements of Sri Lanka	11
2.3 Confronting Challenges	12
2.4 Performance Overview: Divisions with Cross-cutting Areas	13
2.4.1 Economic Affairs Division	13
2.4.2 International Security and Counter Terrorism Division	15
2.4.3 Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Division	16
2.4.4 Overseas Sri Lankans Division	17
2.4.5 Policy Planning, Research & Human Resource Development Division	18
2.4.6 Public Diplomacy Division	19
2.4.7 SAARC Division	21
2.4.8 United Nations and Human Rights Division	22
2.5 Performance Overview: Territorial Divisions	26
2.5.1 Africa Affairs Division	26
2.5.2 Americas Division	26
2.5.3 East Asia Division	27
2.5.4 Europe & Central Asia, European Union and Commonwealth Division	28
2.5.5 Middle East Division	31
2.5.6 South Asia Division	32
2.5.7 South East Asia Division	33
2.6 Performance Overview: Operational Divisions	36
2.6.1 Consular Affairs Division	36
2.6.2 General Administration Division	38
2.6.3 Human Resources and Mission Management Division	39
2.6.4 Internal Audit & Investigation Division	40
2.6.5 Legal Division	41
2.6.6 Overseas Asset Management and Development (OAM & D) Division	44
2.6.7 Protocol Division	44
2.6.8 Emergency Response Unit	45
2.7 Significant Events – 2022	46

<b>CHAPTER-3: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE</b>	48
3.1 Statement of Financial Performance	48
3.2 Statement of Financial Position	49
3.3 Statement of Cash Flow	50
3.4 Performance of the Revenue Collection	52
3.5 Performance of the Utilization of Allocation	52
3.6 Grant of allocations for expenditure to the Ministry	53
3.7 Performance of the Non-Financial Assets	54
3.8 Overall Financial Performance for the year – 2022	54
<b>CHAPTER-4: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	55
4.1. Overall Achievement of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of the Ministry	55
4.2. Achievement of Key Performance Indicators: Divisions with Cross-cutting Areas	56
4.3 Achievement of Key Performance Indicators: Territorial Divisions	65
4.4 Achievement of Key Performance Indicators: Operational Divisions	75
<b>CHAPTER -5 - PERFORMANCE OF ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b>	
5.1 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	83
<b>CHAPTER- 6-HUMAN RESOURCES PROFILE OF THE MINISTRY</b>	
6.1 Cadre Management	84
6.2 Human Resource Development	85
<b>CHAPTER- 7 – COMPLIANCE REPORT</b>	89

## CHAPTER-1- INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

### 1.1 Introduction

A network of sixty (60)<sup>1</sup> Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad are administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs while facilitating 43 Foreign Missions/Posts and 30 International Organizations including the United Nations and its affiliated agencies based in Colombo. Performance of the National Oceanic Affairs Committee (NOAC) Secretariat, the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIIRS) and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) was also overseen by the Ministry during the period under review.

The scope of the Ministry (extraordinary Gazette no. 2289/43 of 22 July 2022) has been segregated and assigned to a total number of 23 different Divisions, in addition to the Emergency Focal Point Unit, established by the Ministry in 2020, to address the issues related to COVID-19 and other similar emergencies. Accordingly, eight (8) Divisions with Cross-cutting Areas, seven (7) Territorial Divisions and eight (8) Operational Divisions are included in the Ministry's Division architecture depending on the nature of the work assigned to each Division.

The network of Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad are fundamentally responsible to safeguard and promote Sri Lanka's national interests abroad through enhancing bilateral political and economic relations, security and strategic cooperation, science and technology cooperation, development assistance, cultural and people-to-people relations as well as fostering multilateral and regional engagements. The Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad are also responsible in providing necessary consular assistance to the Sri Lankan expatriate communities who are domiciled in their respective country/ies of accreditation while ensuring their employment welfare.

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<sup>1</sup> Thirty-four (34) Embassies, twelve (12) High Commissions, two (2) Permanent Missions to the United Nations, (Geneva & New York), a Deputy High Commission in Chennai, a Representative Office in Ramallah city, Palestine and ten (10) Consulates General are included in the current Missions network of the Ministry.

## 1.2 Vision and Mission

### **Vision**

To be a responsible nation within the international community and to maintain friendly relations with all countries.

### **Mission**

The promotion, projection, and protection of Sri Lanka's national interests internationally, in accordance with the foreign policy of the Government and to advise the Government on managing foreign relations in keeping with Sri Lanka's national interests.

### 1.3 Duties and Functions

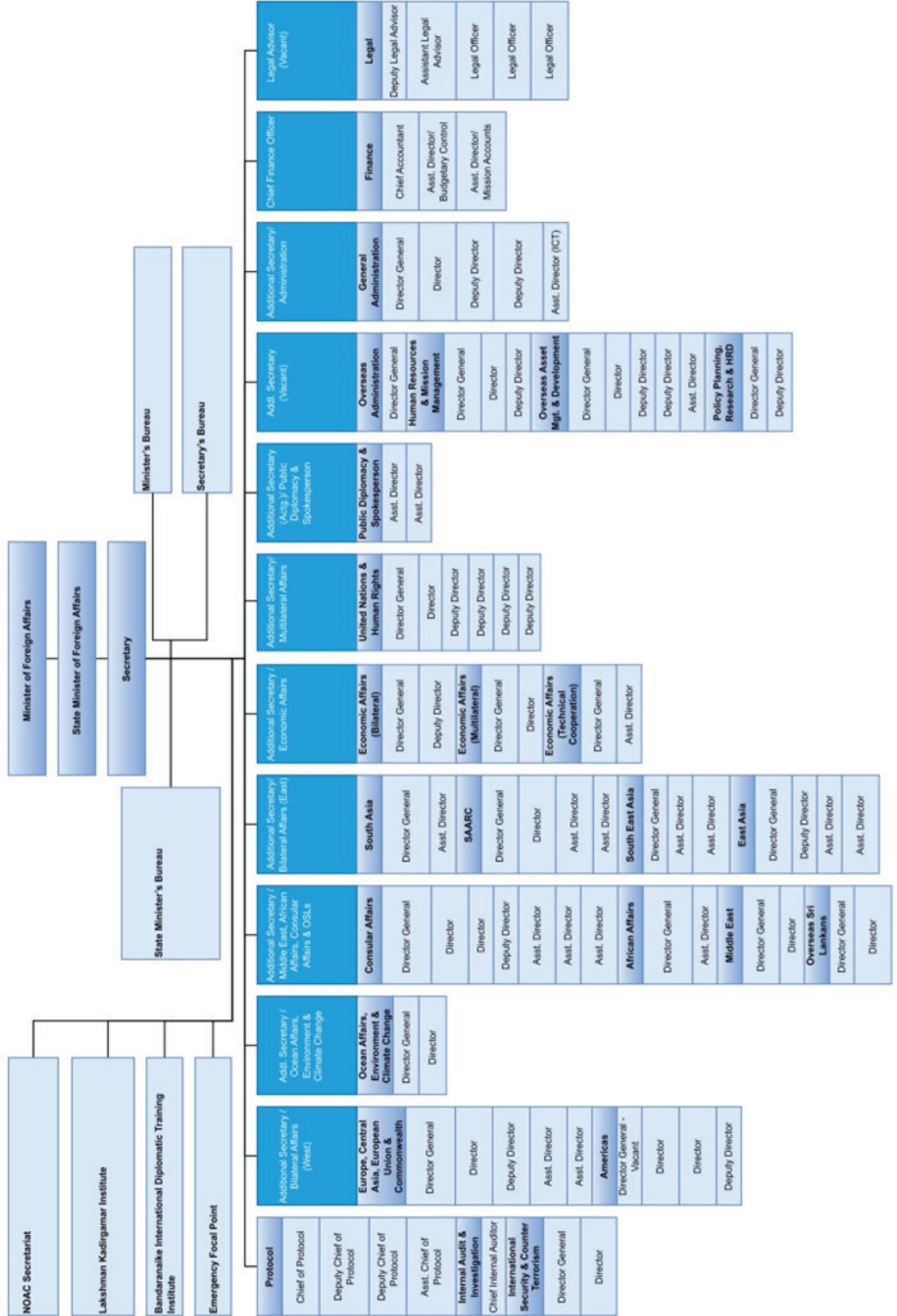
Part 1: Sec (I) – Gazette Extraordinary No: 2289/43 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka – 22 July 2022

<b>Duties &amp; Functions</b>	<b>Column II (Departments, Statutory Institutions &amp; Public Corporations)</b>	<b>Column III Laws and Ordinance to be Implemented</b>
1. Formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects, in relation to the subject of Foreign Affairs, and those subjects that come under the purview of Departments, Statutory Institutions and Public Corporations listed in Column II based on the national policies implemented by the government.	1. Diplomatic Missions abroad 2. National Oceanic Affairs Committee Secretariat 3. Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies	1. Consular Function Act, No. 4 of 1981 2. Diplomatic Privileges Act, No. 9 of 1996 3. Sri Lanka Institute of Strategic Studies Act, No. 45 of 2000 4. All other legislations pertaining to the subjects specified in Column I and II, and not specifically brought under the purview of any other Minister.
2. Provision of public services under the purview of the Ministry in an efficient and people friendly manner.		
3. Reforming all systems and procedures using modern management techniques and technology, thus ensuring that the functions of the Ministry are fulfilled while eliminating corruption and waste.		
4. Maintenance of diplomatic relations with foreign countries broadening the cooperation of Sri Lanka as an active member internationally thereby stabilizing the good image of Sri Lanka abroad.		
5. Adoption of necessary measures to widen international cooperation in accordance with national policies, coordination and provision of necessary advice to the Government.		
6. Responding appropriately to counteract adverse propaganda affecting the good image of Sri Lanka and stabilize the image of Sri Lanka.		

<b>Duties &amp; Functions</b>	<b>Column II (Departments, Statutory Institutions &amp; Public Corporations)</b>	<b>Column III Laws and Ordinance to be Implemented</b>
7. Active engagement with international and regional associations of political, economic, environmental, social and cultural cooperation.		
8. Maintenance of diplomatic relations with foreign countries, and conduct negotiations in relation to treaties, agreements and conventions.		
9. Provision of diplomatic immunities and privileges.		
10. Provision of necessary assistance to relevant Ministries and Institutions for the promotion of external trade, investment, tourism, employment and external financial relations.		
11. Consolidating foreign relations required for the protection of territorial integrity and maritime rights of Sri Lanka.		
12. Adoption of necessary measures related to the welfare of Sri Lankan residents in foreign countries.		
13. Provision of consular services.		
14. Administration of personnel in Sri Lanka Foreign Service and those attached to overseas diplomatic mission and take measures to enhance their professional skills.		
15. Studying geo-political trends and advising the government on strategies to be adopted in the management of such trends in a manner beneficial to the interest of Sri Lanka.		
16. Supervising all Institutions referred to in Column II and matters relating to all subjects assigned to such Institutions.		
17. Supervision of all Institutions listed in Column II.		

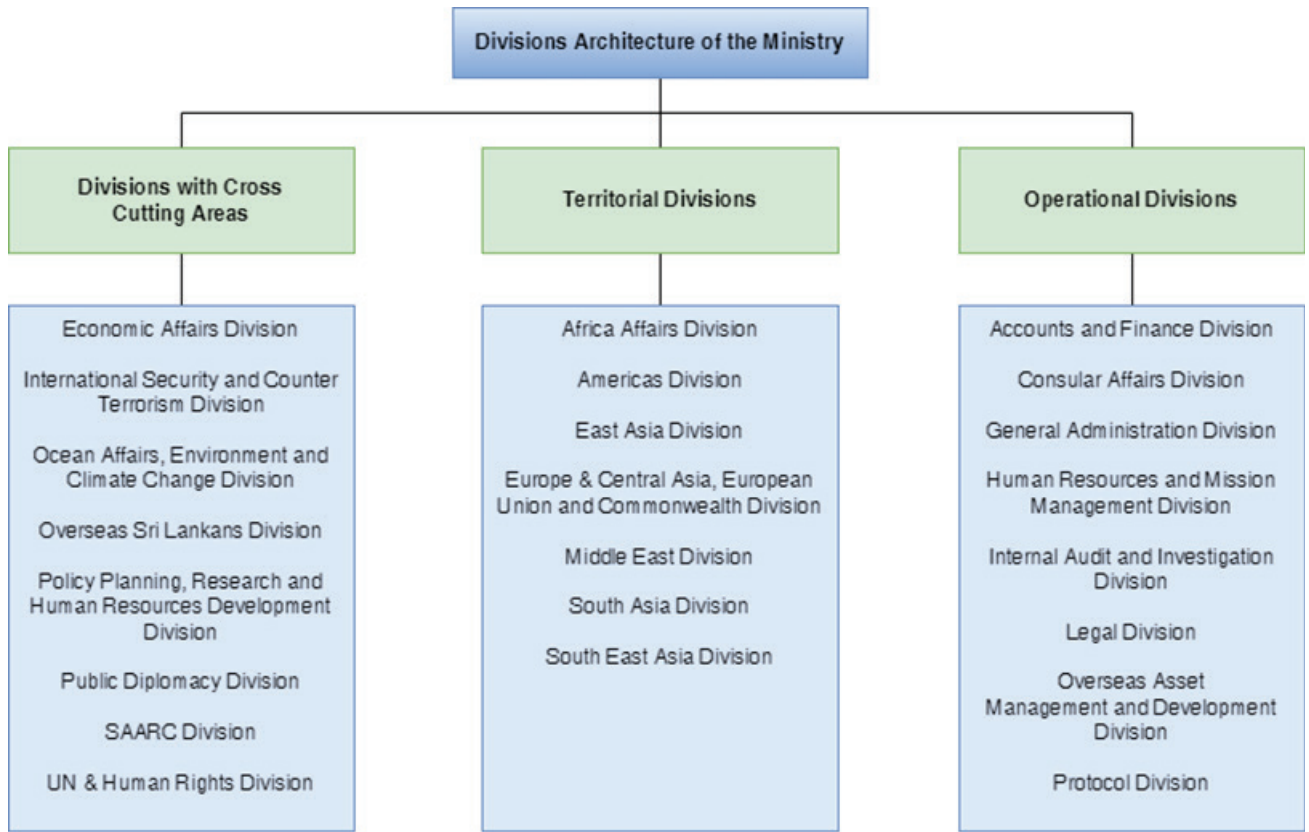
# 1.4 Organogram

## ORGANOGRAM OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS





## 1.6 Divisions Architecture



## CHAPTER-2 - PROGRESS AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the only Government entity which is responsible for conducting and maintaining diplomatic relations among the foreign nations, while projecting and promoting Sri Lanka's image abroad, in line with the national interests of the country, performed its duties and functions at its highest level of satisfaction, amidst numerous challenges and hardships created by COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant global economic crisis. The Ministry also focuses on continuous development on its duties and functions by addressing the identified issues and problems during the year in close coordination and collaboration with the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad, Line Agencies/Ministries as well as the Foreign Missions/Posts based in Colombo.

### 2.1. Diplomatic Outreach of Sri Lanka

During the period under review, the President, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the other Ministers of Sri Lanka engaged and interacted with their respective counterparts and interlocutors of foreign nations, in particular, to address priorities of the country. In this context, the visits of the President Ranil Wickremesinghe to the United Kingdom and to Japan to attend the state funerals were significant in addition to his visits to the Philippines to attend the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Governors in September 2022 as well as to Egypt to attend the United Nations Climate Change-Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), COP 27 in November 2022.

The official visits of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to attend the Expo-2020 (held in 2022) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific in Paris and the ASEAN Summit in Cambodia, in addition to his participation at the 49<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers' Meeting (COM), demonstrated Sri Lanka's active engagement with the regional and multilateral fora.

The bilateral official visits to the Republic of Korea, India, Qatar, Singapore and the United States of America by the Minister of Foreign Affairs opened new vistas to elevate the bilateral cooperation into new heights. The visit of State Minister of Foreign Affairs to Pakistan along with a trade delegation headed by the Minister of Trade in January 2022, further strengthened the existing strong relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The official visits by Ministers of Foreign/External Affairs of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Hungary, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Republic of Turkey and Thailand as well as the private visit of the President of the Maldives and the visit of the Spiritual Leader of the International Bohra Community to Sri Lanka during the reporting period helped to further enhance bilateral relations with those countries.

In addition, during the period under consideration, the UK Minister of State of South Asia, UN and Commonwealth, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, the Minister for Government Policy Coordination of the Republic of Korea, the Speaker of the Parliament of the Maldives and the Minister for Home Affairs of Australia also visited Sri Lanka and engaged with their respective counterparts and interlocutors in Sri Lanka, including the high-level officials of the Government. The visits of the Minister of Health to participate in the Regional Committee for South East Asia of the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Bhutan, the Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment to Japan, the Minister of Power and Energy, the State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification, the Minister of Trade to Oman, the Minister of Tourism, the State Minister of Gem and Jewellery to the UAE to participate at the EXPO-2020, the Minister of Finance, the Speaker of the Parliament and the Minister of Tourism to India were also significant amongst the other Ministerial and Senior-Official level outward visits, during the reporting period. The following table-I and II illustrate the details of the inward and outward high-level visits of Sri Lanka, during the period under review.

**Table – I- High Level Visits-Inward**

**Heads of State/Government**

1.	President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih of the Republic of Maldives from 30 December 2021 to 2 January 2022
2.	President Cyril Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa from 14 -16 November 2022
3.	President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih of the Republic of Maldives from 29 December 2022 to 2 January 2023

**Foreign Ministers & Deputy Foreign Ministers**

1.	State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi of the People's Republic of China, from 8-9 January 2022
2.	Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade Péter Szijjártó of Hungary on 12 January 2022
3.	Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu of the Republic of Turkey from 27 - 28 January 2022
4.	Minister of Foreign Affairs Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Sri Lanka from 13 -14 March 2022
5.	Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen of Bangladesh from 28-31 March 2022
6.	Foreign Minister Dr. Tandi Dorji of Bhutan 28 -31 March 2022
7.	External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar of India from 27-30 March 2022
8.	Foreign Minister Dr. Narayan Khadka of Nepal from 28-31 March 2022
9.	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Don. Pramudwinal of Thailand from 28-30 March 2022

## Other Ministers

1.	Speaker of the Parliament Mohamed Nasheed of the Republic of Maldives as the Chief Guest of the 2nd Session of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Youth Parliament, 16-18 January 2022
2.	UK Minister of State of South Asia, UN and Commonwealth Ahmad of Wimbledon from 18-20 January 2022
3.	Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug of the Republic of Korea from 19-22 January 2022
4.	Minister for Government Policy Coordination Koo Yun-cheol of the Republic of Korea from 30 March to 2 April 2022
6.	Speaker of the Parliament Mohamed Nasheed of the Republic of Maldives from 19-22 May 2022 & from 17-20 June 2022
7.	Minister for Home Affairs Clare O'Neil of Australia from 19-20 June 2022
8.	Speaker of the Parliament Mohamed Nasheed of the Republic of Maldives, from 19-22 October 2022

## Other Foreign Dignitaries

1.	UN Assistant Secretary General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific Kanni Wignaraja from 12 December 2021 to 7 January 2022
2.	President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Masatsuga Asakawa from 9-11 March 2022
3.	Under Secretary for Political Affairs, US Department of State Victoria Nuland from 22-23 March 2022
4.	Secretary General of BIMSTEC Tenzin Lekphell from 26 March to 1 April 2022
5.	Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra of India on 23 June 2022
6.	Director General of Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department Kano Takehiro, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan (3rd Round of the Policy (Political) Dialogue between Sri Lanka and Japan) from 14-16 July 2022
7.	Administrator of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Samantha Power from 10-12 September 2022
8.	Ex-Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Erik Solheim from 10-13 October 2022

## Conferences and Other Events

1.	5 <sup>th</sup> Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectorial Technical Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit Colombo, Sri Lanka BIMSTEC Secretary General - 1 Foreign Ministers - 5 From 28-30 March 2022
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**Table-II- High Level Visits-Outward****President**

#	Country	Duration (2022)	Purpose
1.	United Kingdom	19-22 September	To attend the state funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth-II
2.	Japan	26-28 September	To attend the state funeral of former President Shinzo Abe of Japan
3.	Philippines	28-30 September	To attend the 55 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ADB Board of Governors
4.	Egypt	7-8 November	To attend the United Nations Climate Change-Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), COP 27

**Minister of Foreign Affairs**

#	Country	Duration (2022)	Purpose
1.	United Arab Emirates	2-6 January	To attend Expo-2020
2.	Republic of Korea	6-8 January	Official Visit
3.	India	6-8 February	Official Visit
4.	Paris	21-25 February	Official Visit for Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific
5.	Geneva	25 February to 5 March	To attend the 49 <sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
6.	Doha Qatar	26-27 March	Official Visit
7.	Singapore	8-11 June	Official Visit
8.	Geneva	12-17 June	To attend the 50 <sup>th</sup> Session of the UNHRC
9.	Rwanda	20-26 June	To attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)
10.	Cambodia	4-5 August	To attend the ASEAN Summit
11.	Geneva	7-13 September	To attend the 51 <sup>st</sup> Session of the UNHCR
12.	New York	19-27 September	To attend the 77 <sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA
13.	Geneva	3-8 October	To attend the 51 <sup>st</sup> Session of the UNHCR
14.	Bangladesh	22-24 November	To attend the 22 <sup>nd</sup> IORA Conference
15.	USA	29 November to 5 December	Official Visit to Washington D.C.

## State Minister of Foreign Affairs and other Ministers

#	Country	Duration (2022)	Remarks
1.	UAE	3 January	Visit by the Minister of Tourism and the State Minister of Gem and Jewellery
2.	Pakistan	20 -27 January	Visit by the State Minister of Foreign Affairs
3.	India	6-8 February	Visit by the Speaker of the Parliament, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Tourism
4.	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	19-24 March	Visit by the State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification
5.	Oman	26-28 March	Visit by the Minister of Trade
6.	Oman	27-29 June	Visit by the Minister of Power and Energy
7.	Bhutan	5-9 September	Visit by the Minister of Health to participate in the 75 <sup>th</sup> Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia
8.	Japan	27 September to 4 October	Visit by the Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment
9.	Russia	9-16 October	Visit by the Minister of Education
10.	Kazakhstan	12-13 October	Visit by the State Minister of Foreign Affairs to attend the conference of CICA
11.	United Kingdom	7 November	Visit by the Minister of Tourism and Land to attend the World Travel Mart

## 2.2 Regional and Multilateral Engagements of Sri Lanka

A number of meetings/conferences of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was attended and hosted by Sri Lanka, including the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine (BTFTM), the 22<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) and the 18th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting, during the period under consideration. The 5<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit hosted by Sri Lanka in March 2022, with the in-person participation of five (5) Foreign Ministers of the Member States and the Secretary General of the BIMSTEC, was attended by seven (7) Heads of State/Government of the Member States, virtually.

As an island nation, Sri Lanka's involvement with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) during 2022 was significant and Foreign Minister Ali Sabry attended its 22<sup>nd</sup> Council of Ministers' meeting which was held in Bangladesh in November 2022. There were also a considerable number of engagements by the Ministry with the Colombo Process (CP), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other regional cooperation entities such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The participation of State Minister of Foreign Affairs Tharaka Balasuriya at the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Kazakhstan in October 2022 also enhanced the relations among the Member States in a multifaceted area of cooperation.

Sri Lanka made continuous interactions and representations at the 49<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and reiterated Sri Lanka's position in line with the sovereignty, independence and equal rights of the people of the country. While heading Sri Lanka's delegation to the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Foreign Minister Ali Sabry made a statement at the session, highlighting Sri Lanka's efforts to address the interlinked challenges faced by the people of the country, mainly caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the current global economic crisis.

Professor Rangita De Silva De Alwis was elected to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for the term 2023-2026 representing Sri Lanka at the elections conducted during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the State Parties to the CEDAW Convention at the United Nations in New York on 23 June 2022. The Sri Lanka Permanent Mission in New York along with the other Sri Lanka Missions/Posts campaigned for the successful winning of the election.

Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of Sri Lanka on the basis of 2030 agenda on Sustainable Development was analyzed and presented <sup>2</sup> to the High-Level Political Forum at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) by the Sustainable Development Council (SDC), being Sri Lanka's focal point, in June 2022. According to the Global Sustainable Development Report, consecutively for the second time, Sri Lanka has improved its global rank by 11 positions and is placed at 76<sup>th</sup> place out of 163 countries in 2022. In 2021, Sri Lanka moved up by 7 places to the rank of 87<sup>th</sup> out of 165 countries, showing a steady progress in achieving the SDGs.

### **2.3 Confronting Challenges**

Sri Lanka has made a significant progress in addressing the financial constraints generated in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, in collaboration with the bilateral donors and multilateral organizations such as the UN and its affiliated agencies. Reaching to a staff level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to support the economic policies of Sri Lanka for a US\$ 2.9 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) is one of the most significant achievements of the Government of Sri Lanka among the measures taken to address the economic challenges confronted by the country.

The joint Humanitarian Needs and Priorities (HNP) worth of US\$ 47.2 million, launched by the United Nations (UN) and its affiliated agencies, on 9 June 2022 to address issues related to food security in Sri Lanka was also an outcome of Sri Lanka's continuous and firm engagement with the UN and its affiliated agencies. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad, coordinated and facilitated the said HNP in collaboration with the Line Ministries/Agencies and Foreign Missions based in Colombo.

As a measure of curtailing public expenditure, the Ministry took a number of initiatives to rationalize recurrent expenditure of the Ministry including Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad by reducing non-essential staff positions of the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad. Accordingly, steps were taken to temporarily close down three (3)<sup>3</sup> diplomatic Missions/Posts by accrediting their mandates to nearby Sri Lanka Missions/Posts, ensuring uninterrupted diplomatic relations among those nations.

The Ministry made a significant achievement in delivering consular services to the general public by introducing the e-channeling system to address the long queuing outside the Consular Division of the Ministry and its Regional Consular Offices in Jaffna, Matara, Kandy, Trincomalee and Kurunegala. Whilst addressing a wide range of issues and problems relating to providing consular services due to sudden increased demand of services, the Ministry managed to accommodate all the consular requests of the public in a timely manner during the year. In 2022, the Ministry earned a total income of LKR 386,892,508/- as the income from documents verification which is an increase of around 120% compared to 2021.

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<sup>2</sup> Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Sri Lanka on the implementation of the 2030 agenda on Sustainable Development has been conducted through over 700 multi-level stakeholders' consultations. The report consists of an analysis of the current status and trends, gaps and challenges and opportunities for achieving the SDGs in line with Sri Lanka's commitment to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

<sup>3</sup> Embassy of Sri Lanka in Norway, Embassy of Sri Lanka in Baghdad and Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Sydney.

The Emergency Response Unit of the Ministry played a significant role in supporting the shortage of medical equipment and the pharmaceutical supplies of the country, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad. Accordingly, the Unit handed over a total of 122 consignments of medicines, medical equipment, essential food items and other emergency supplies to the respective authorities including the Ministry of Health during the period under review. The Ministry also facilitated the donation of a consignment of Ceylon Tea to the victims of flood in Pakistan in September 2022.

Sri Lanka was upgraded to Tier 2 of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report released by the United States Department of State on 19 July 2022. Sri Lanka has remained on the Tier 2 Watch List for the last three years, having a greater risk of downgrading to the Tier 3.

This report reviews the performance of the Ministry during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022, focusing on the performance made by each Division in coordination with the respective Missions/Posts abroad, the Line Ministries/Agencies and the foreign diplomatic Missions and International Organizations based in Colombo.

## **2.4 Performance Overview: Divisions with Cross-cutting Areas**

### **2.4.1 Economic Affairs Division**

The Economic Affairs Division of the Ministry is responsible for promoting economic diplomacy by facilitating the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad and the Line Ministries/Agencies in Sri Lanka. The Division provides strategic guidance and support to the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts in promoting and safeguarding Sri Lanka's economic interests overseas.

One of the main tasks of the Economic Affairs Division is the implementation of the Economic Diplomacy Programme, which assigns economic targets to the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts in coordination with various public and private sector institutions such as the President's Office, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance and its affiliated agencies, Department of Commerce, Board of Investment, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, Sri Lanka Export Development Board, Sri Lanka Tea Board, Sri Lanka Gem and Jewelry Authority, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Department of Inland Revenue, Chambers of Commerce, Joint Apparel Association, Information and Communication Technology Agency, and Colombo Stock Exchange.

The Economic Affairs Division aims to promote Sri Lanka's economic growth and development through effective economic diplomacy, which includes activities such as trade and investment promotion, attracting foreign direct investment, and supporting Sri Lankan exporters.

#### **2.4.1.1 Economic Affairs (Bilateral)**

The 'Ambassadors' forum' at the President's Office for 23 debtor countries as a part of the debt restructuring process to obtain the IMF assistance for Sri Lanka and President Ranil Wickremesinghe's visits to Tokyo and Manila were facilitated by the Division.

The Division was instrumental in obtaining foreign assistance (fuel, wheat, sugar, fertilizer, medicine, chemicals, industrial goods, assistance for civil aviation, etc.) to support the Sri Lankan economy, including the Indian Line of Credit, US & Chinese assistance and other donations. The Division worked with Government Evaluation Committees to ascertain proposals for fuel, bridging financing, and loans. The Division also worked with the National Trade Negotiation Committee to resume FTA negotiations with Singapore, India, China and Thailand.

Five (5) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) promotional events and stakeholder meetings for tourism promotion with the special focus on the role of the Ministry and Missions/Posts were facilitated by the Division. Organized virtual meetings related to trade, investment and tourism promotion (16+), and convened a meeting with trade/tourism chambers and created a network for promotion of trade and tourism.

This Division facilitated promoting of the National Digital Investment Summit-2022 held in Colombo on 13 October 2022 in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Missions/ Posts.

The Hungary–Sri Lanka Business Forum and the B2B Meetings, held in January 2022 and conclusion of a number of MoUs/Agreements in the areas of avoidance of double taxation, foreign employment promotion, tourism promotion etc. were facilitated in consultation with the Legal Division of the Ministry. Nine (9) trade disputes were facilitated in collaboration with respective parties.

#### **2.4.1.2 Economic Affairs (Multilateral)**

Sri Lanka hosted core BIMSTEC meeting (hybrid) preceding to the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit (virtual) on 30 March 2022 and the following documents were signed and adopted at the Summit:

- i. BIMSTEC Charter;
- ii. BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters;
- iii. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Mutual Cooperation between Diplomatic Academies/Training Institutions of BIMSTEC Member States; and
- iv. Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (TTF) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

In addition, the Leaders also adopted the Master plan on Transport Connectivity and approved the reconstituted Sectors and Sub-sectors of cooperation.

Sri Lanka hosted the Fourth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine on 20 January 2022 in Colombo, Sri Lanka virtually and “BIMSTEC Workshop on Encouraging Private Sector Participation, especially in Value Chain Management for Agricultural Products: Developing Value Chains through Post harvest Management, virtually in Kandy, Sri Lanka on 15-16 August 2022.

The Division acts as the focal point for the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), participated/facilitated 46 meetings related to the IORA. Sri Lanka assumed the position of vice chair for the period of two years (2021-2023) at the 21<sup>st</sup> Council of Ministers which was preceded by the Committee of Senior Officials meetings held in Dhaka, 15-17 November 2021. Sri Lanka Delegation headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs participated at the 22nd Council of Ministers Meeting (COM) and preceded meetings as a vice Chair of IORA held in Dhaka, 22-24 November 2022. Sri Lanka hosted (virtually) the 2nd Institutional Arrangements and Broadening Engagement (IABE) Cluster Group Meeting on 2 March 2022 as a Coordinating country of the IABE Cluster.

#### **2.4.1.3 Technical Cooperation**

The “Technical Co-operation Programme” of the Economic Affairs Division provides technical assistance to participants from Least Developed Countries (LDC’s) in the SAARC, Asia and Africa regions by conducting training programmes in partnership with the line agencies in Sri Lanka in areas where Sri Lanka is able to offer its expertise. Sri Lanka launched the programme as a part of its initiative to support LDC’s by sharing Sri Lanka’s best practices and technical expertise to strengthen capacity building.

Meanwhile, the Economic Affairs Division organized an interactive workshop for the first time for the officers serving in the Ministry (Sri Lanka Foreign Service, Administrative Service and Accountancy Service) on the 13 November 2022. The focus was on the role of economic diplomacy, strategies for attracting investments, exploring vibrant markets for Sri Lankan products and services overseas, enhancing tourism, and promoting foreign employment opportunities, protection of data privacy and secure use of social media, global and local cyber security threat landscape, awareness of information and cyber security policy for government organizations.

This Division verified and recommended 190 short term entry visas, 51 long term entry visas and 72 resident visas to employees of the International Organizations such as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Finance Cooperation, Japan International Cooperation Agency

(JICA), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Colombo Plan Secretariat, etc., who are on specific assignments in Sri Lanka. Visas were facilitated for the participants attending workshops and seminars in Sri Lanka organized by Line Ministries including the Sustainable Development Council under the Ministry of Finance.

Facilitated 100 Procurement Notices received from Ministries, Departments and Institutions such as the SriLankan Airlines, the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation, the Litro Gas Lanka Ltd, and the Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Ltd. etc. and advised Sri Lanka Missions abroad, to provide adequate publicity for the notices and upload them on the websites of their Mission/Post.

Facilitated verification of International Companies through the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad. And provided Feedback /suggestions to the draft National Mineral Policy document received from the Director General of the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau.

#### **2.4.2 International Security and Counter Terrorism Division**

**LTTE related matters:** The Division provided inputs and coordinated with relevant Missions/Posts regarding the continued proscription of LTTE in European Union, Australia and United States of Americas. Both the EU and Australia announced the retention of their respective LTTE listings in July and in September 2022, respectively. The Division prepared the second biannual submission to the EU which was submitted in October 2022. The decision of the review is expected in February 2023. Australia's relisting will be in effect for a further 3 years. The result of the U.S. review is awaited. The Division has submitted information to support the retention of the LTTE listing in Canada. An application/appeal was made to the Proscribed Organizations Appeal Commission (POAC) for the de-proscription of the LTTE in the UK and an updated dossier was submitted in consultation of the relevant line agencies to the UK government agencies. The judgment/decision is expected in July/August 2023. The Division made submissions to the Americas desk and SLHC/Ottawa with a view to countering the recognition of genocide by Canadian authorities. The Division made submissions to the Europe desk with a view to countering the recognition of genocide by Italian municipalities. The Division continued the maintaining of social media and political activity related to the LTTE abroad on significant days and events to identify patterns and developments to be addressed.

**Expanding bilateral defence cooperation:** Several Memoranda of Understanding on Intelligence sharing, Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Security/Defence related matters have been initiated by the Division. The MoU between Sri Lanka and the Philippines has received Cabinet approval. Response awaited from the Philippines side for the signing. The revision of the MoU between Sri Lanka and Indonesia is being currently negotiated. Response awaited from the Indonesian side. The Division provided input and participated in the US-SL Partnership Dialogue. The Division also provided input for the meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Executive Director of CTED (July 2022), and for the UNGA related meetings (September 2022).

Capacity development of local defence, security and legal agencies: The Division also coordinated capacity building programmes, offered by other governments and international organizations (e.g.: UNODC), for officials of Department of Attorney General's, Armed Forces, Ministry of Justice etc.

**Support preventing/countering violent extremism efforts:** The Division continued with coordination of obtaining information on suspects related to terrorism living abroad and of interest to Sri Lanka, and supported strengthening cooperation between the relevant agencies in Government of Sri Lanka and foreign agencies. Meetings were held with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF- a global fund dedicated to preventing violent extremism) under its Accelerated Funding Mechanism for Sri Lanka to identify projects and consolidate funding. The third batch of subgrantees has been approved by Sri Lanka. Under the UNODC South Asia Network

on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, the Division represented the Foreign Ministry in the GoSL Delegation to the 4th High Level and Technical Meetings on Modalities and Work plan of SAN-PVE held in March 2022 in Male. As a National Contact Point for the SAN-PVE, the Division coordinated matter of relevance between the UNODC and SL stakeholders, and also participated in meetings.

**Countering Terror Financing:** Together with the Deputy Legal Adviser, the Division represented the Foreign Ministry in the Officials' Committee convened by the Chief of National Intelligence to review the Designated List of Persons and Entities under UN Regulation No.1 of 2012 to promulgate UNSCR 1373. The new list was gazetted on 1 August 2022.

### 2.4.3 Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Division

**Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Group on Mangrove Ecosystems and Livelihoods (MELAG):** The Commonwealth Blue Charter (CBC) was adopted at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London in April 2018. Through the Blue Charter, Commonwealth countries agree to actively cooperate to solve ocean-related problems and meet national and international commitments. Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Groups implement the Blue Charter. This Division is the Focal Point of CBC in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka champions the Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Group on Mangrove Ecosystems and Livelihoods (MELAG). This Division is the coordinating focal point for the MELAG. Director General of the Division attended the MELAG Side Event as a panelist on the sidelines of the UNFCCC COP27 to showcase Sri Lanka's leadership for MELAG and the successful initiatives taken by Sri Lanka to ensure conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystem.

**Commitment with Indian Ocean Rim Association [IORA]:** This Division has taken several steps to ensure that Sri Lanka fulfills its commitments and obligations of Sri Lanka as the Coordinating Country for the IORA Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security (WGMSS) and to ensure continuation of the responsibility of WGMSS until 2027. Accordingly, this Division initiated/involved in the following events:

- i. Organized 3 stakeholder meetings with the participation of relevant agencies mandated to carry out the activities set out in the 2nd IORA WGMSS Work Plan (2022-2026);
- ii. Established 2 committees, one to develop a regional approach coherent approach in addressing critical infrastructure protection and the second to formulate a concept note on the rationale for developing an IORA MoU on prevention of transnational crimes in the Indian Ocean Region;
- iii. SL Navy is currently conceptualizing a proposal on training programmes on anti-piracy simulators and Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) training in the 2nd Quarter of 2023; and
- iv. Sri Lanka Coast Guard to support to host a regional conference in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2023 to create a mechanism to facilitate a dialogue between regional law enforcement agencies on information sharing on maritime security to strengthen the cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of the Member States.

The Division coordinating with the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and Rule of Law [MPFPR] of Germany, to organize the 3rd meeting of the WGMSS hosted by Sri Lanka coupled with a three[3]-day workshop focusing on increasing and promoting the region-wide capacities of IORA Member States and the IORA Secretariat to identify shared Maritime Safety and Security concerns as well as the legal obligations and possibilities to address these within the framework of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The IORA Secretariat granted approval for the proposal of Max Planck Foundation. The Division is currently working on organizing the 3rd WGMSS Meeting from 20–24 March 2023 along with workshop funded by the Max Planck Foundation with no financial burden for the GoSL.

**Sri Lanka's engagement with the Blue Planet Fund - Ocean Country Partnership Programme (BPF-OCPP):** The UK has committed to establishing a £500 million Blue Planet Fund (BPF). The BPF reinforces the UK's global leadership on marine issues, and UK's existing commitments to address plastic pollution entering the ocean through our joint UK-Vanuatu led CBC Action Group, "Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance [CCOA]". BPF-OCPP has 3 core focus areas - Marine Biodiversity, Sustainable Seafood and Marine Pollution. The OCPP is one of a series of projects funded through the BPF with £5.7Million allocated in its first year of delivery, through Technical Assistance

partnerships with a selection of ODA eligible partner countries. A team from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) of the UK visited Sri Lanka in March 2022 and had series of preliminary meetings with government stakeholders and experts focusing on 3 core focus areas coming under OCPP. Further, it was agreed to establish a National Committee. In preparation for Defra's interaction with stakeholders on the 30 x 30 Ocean Initiative, this Division also organized an interactive session with Sri Lankan stakeholders on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), which encompasses MPAs as well. Further, this Division organized another series of virtual meetings in July 2022 which were held with key stakeholder agencies in five (5) clusters to build on shared understanding of the MSP, and the need for MSP in Sri Lanka's EEZ.

**Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index [CORVI] Rapid Assessment:** This is a pilot project that was done under the Commonwealth Blue Charter with the technical assistance provided by the Stimson Center-USA, for the Western Province of Sri Lanka. This new assessment finds Sri Lanka's vulnerability to extreme rising temperatures and coastal flooding, and identifies investments and recommendations needed to protect coastal communities. Sri Lanka was the only country that was identified outside of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for the Pilot Project through intensive engagement with the Commonwealth Secretariat highlighting the vulnerability of coastal cities and low-lying areas of Sri Lanka to climate triggered conditions.

**International Day on Seagrass (1 March):** The Division coordinated with the BDS-MoE and PRUN/New York, with technical expertise from the Blue Resource Trust to adopt a Resolution at the UNGA, to designate March 1<sup>st</sup> as the "International Day on Seagrass".

**Developing guidelines and regulations on Marine Scientific Research (MSR) conducted by foreign vessels in SL waters:** The process began in 2018 with an inter-agency stakeholder process working together with the Legal Division. The completed guideline will be sent to the Cabinet for approval. However, now the same text is being incorporated into a larger document focusing on establishing a SOP for both ocean and airborne vessels. Further, this Division has provided clearance for 2 foreign MSR vessels in 2022.

**National Submarine Cables Protection and Resilience Framework:** This Division, together with the UNODC-GMCP and TRCSL formulated the text and presented to the Secretary to the President (as the Ministry of Technology came under his purview) in July 2021. Through the Cabinet of Ministers decision dated 21/06/2021, a committee was established to amend the TRC Act and submitted their decision to the Cabinet. The Cyber Security Draft Bill, which includes provisions to safeguard Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) has been finalized and sent to the Legal Draftsman for feedback and will be submitted to the Cabinet thereafter. The TRCSL and the Division were called for a meeting by President Ranil Wickremesinghe on 28 October 2022 to discuss the progress of the Framework. As the way forward, President Ranil Wickremesinghe recommended the following steps to be taken immediately:

- i. To commence a new process to enact new legislation for the protection of submarine cables;
- ii. Presidential Secretariat to write to the AG's Department on commencing the new legislative enactment; and
- iii. Ministry of Science & Technology to follow up further on the new Act/amendments to the Act referred above.

#### **2.4.4 Overseas Sri Lankans Division**

The Overseas Sri Lankans Division was established in October 2021, continuing the efforts of the Ministry in relation to enhanced engagement with overseas Sri Lankans. The Division focuses on maintaining statistics of overseas Sri Lankans, identifying sustainable means of engagement with overseas Sri Lankans benefiting both Sri Lanka and its overseas population. For this purpose, the Division maintains the Contact Sri Lanka Web portal and the central database. As per Mission data, there are approximately 1.5Mn overseas Sri Lankans as of September 2022.

The 'Contact Sri Lanka' Web-Portal for the collation of information of Overseas Sri Lankans commenced with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to assist Sri Lankans to return to Sri Lanka and many queries of overseas Sri Lankans had been attended. Currently, the Ministry in coordination with the Information and Communication

Technology Agency (ICTA) is in the process of addressing the issues with the portal. A series of discussions with ICTA and the developer enabled the Division to identify the required further developments for enhanced and effective performance of the portal.

The Division continued to collect Data of overseas Sri Lankans on a monthly basis through Sri Lanka Missions/ Posts abroad. The Division also monitors the Centralized database which commenced early in the year to enhance Diaspora engagement. The details are submitted by Sri Lankan Missions/Posts through a Google Form and there were 2872 entries with the Division by the end of December 2022. The Division also fulfills data collection requests made by external institutions in Sri Lanka such as the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), Ministry of Labor, etc.

Upon requests made by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Buddha Sasana, Religious Affairs and Cultural Affairs, the Division provided the details of business, religious and cultural organizations led by overseas Sri Lankans. The last update was done in February 2022 and currently the Division has data of 886 of such associations abroad. Such data can be utilized to promote greater interaction with overseas Sri Lankans.

The Division facilitated the re-admission/repatriation of overseas illegal/refugee status Sri Lankans under Re-admission Agreements, in coordination with the relevant Sri Lankan authorities such as the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka, Department of Immigration and Emigration, State Intelligence Service (SIS), British, Swiss, and Australian Missions in Colombo, etc. The Division conducted a virtual meeting with the Embassy of Switzerland and Maldives in Colombo in January 2022, to discuss matters pertaining to Re-admission of Sri Lankan nationals. In coordination with the Swiss, British and Australian Missions and relevant Sri Lankan authorities, the Division assisted to repatriate 79 illegal overseas Sri Lankans from Switzerland from February to August 2022, 70 from the United Kingdom from May to August 2022 and 46 from Australia in August 2022.

The Division assisted in the formation of the Secretariat for the Overseas Sri Lankans through participation in meetings and in preparation of documents, including the 'draft definition for the Overseas Sri Lankans. At the latter part of 2022, under instructions of Additional Secretary (Middle East, Africa, Consular Affairs, and Overseas Sri Lankans) the Division has commenced employment promotion activities, and had reached out to Missions/Posts to identify prospective overseas organizations. Identifying the need of 'qualification equalization', the Mission has undertaken an exercise to compare the respective qualification frameworks and to identify the areas for development. In addition, the Division assisted the efforts which reviewed the labour contracts entered into in the Middle East region, with the aim of securing better employment standards for migrant workers of Sri Lanka.

#### **2.4.5 Policy Planning, Research & Human Resource Development Division**

Policy Planning, Research and Human Resource Development (PP, R & HRD) Division plays a vital role in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in identifying policy objectives and routing their implementation, based on the foreign policy of the Government. The Division also coordinates and facilitates matters related to career development of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS) Officers and of Mission staff.

**Cadre rationalization and the new promotional scheme for SLFS Officers:** Given the prevailing financial constraints and the need for re-evaluation of existing staff structure of the Ministry/Missions, under the guidance of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and in collaboration with other internal stakeholders, the Division continued the dialogue on the need for cadre rationalization of the Ministry. Accordingly, the committees on the following matters were established and facilitated by this Division, during the period under review:

- i. Comprehensive review of functions and operations of Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad;
- ii. Identification of opportunities for certain categories of officers attached to the Ministry to serve in Missions/ Posts abroad through a competitive selection process and providing policy input; and
- iii. Introduction of a new promotional scheme for the SLFS Officers in Grades III and II, in parallel with other All Island Services.

Special Grade and the Minute of the SLFS: The Division engaged extensively with the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Department of Management Services (DMS) to operationalize the Special Grade of the SLFS. Approval has been received from the PSC to fill 17 vacant Special Grade posts from the eligible SLFS officers. Accordingly, 17 officers were promoted to the Special Grade of the SLFS. The Division also coordinated with the PSC to revise the SLFS Service Minute of 2016 to include the new provisions of the recruitment process and Special Grade Posts.

**Action Plan of the Ministry (2022):** For the purpose of achieving the policy objectives of the Ministry during the period under review, the Division prepared the Action Plan for the Ministry (2022) in collaboration with the other Divisions of the Ministry and the Sri Lanka Missions abroad, with a view to assessing the annual performance of the Ministry, at the end of the financial year.

**Missions Directory (2021/2022):** The Missions Directory 2021/2022 was compiled, published and distributed among the Divisions of the Ministry, Missions/Posts abroad and other Government Institutions.

**Foreign Policy Framework of Sri Lanka:** Under the direct purview of the Foreign Secretary, the Division coordinated and facilitated the meetings of the committee established to prepare the Foreign Policy Framework of Sri Lanka.

**Examinations:** Facilitated the Part-I of the entrance examination of the SLFS conducted by the Department of Examination, on 19 June 2022 and arrangements have been made to conduct the Part-II of the said examination in January 2023, in coordination with the relevant Government authorities including the Department of Examinations. In consultation with the Public Service Commission and the Department of Examination, the Ministry published the gazette notification for conducting the competitive examination for filling vacancies in the Management Service Officers in Sri Lanka Missions Abroad -2020(2022), on 3 February 2022. Steps were taken to finalize the gazette notification for the competitive examination for filling vacancies of the Personal Assistants' Service in Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad – 2020(2022) in consultation with the Public Service Commission and the Department of Examinations.

**Career Development Programmes:** During the period under consideration, the Division facilitated and coordinated 45 foreign training programmes for the SLFS officers in the Ministry with a view to enhancing their knowledge, skills and capacity. The Division also conducted 9 training programmes at the Ministry and at the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI), for the officers of the Ministry. The Division, also offered a training programme for the visiting Foreign Service Officers from Bangladesh in January 2022 and a training programme for the visiting Defence Service Officers from Pakistan in September 2022. The Division arranged and facilitated a 200-hour Special Tamil Language Training Course conducted by the Department of Official Languages for the SLFS officers to complete the service requirement. The Division conducted an awareness Session for the Thirty-Five (35) Officers of the Sri Lanka Police on diplomatic practice in October 2022. The Division, also conducted an orientation programme for a group of 15 newly appointed Heads of Mission/Post to 14 countries in December 2022.

#### **2.4.6 Public Diplomacy Division**

The Public Diplomacy (PD) Division is an operational Division and is the interface between the Government and external entities for information dissemination and projection of Sri Lanka's image overseas. The Division covers events/ situations that take place in the Ministry and in the country in general, related to Sri Lanka's foreign policy and international relations. The Division also disseminates information on events and developments among the Sri Lankan Missions/Posts abroad.

The Division also carries out all media and public communication related activities of the Ministry which includes the Minister of Foreign Affairs, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Secretary and the Sri Lanka Missions/ Posts abroad. This includes important meetings, events, briefings, policy decisions and positions of the Government of Sri Lanka with a foreign policy perspective. The Public Diplomacy Division works around the clock including on weekends and holidays so that the Ministry /Mission media releases reach the media on time for appropriate coverage.

The PD Division has been monitoring important news items related to the Ministry/Sri Lanka on the local/foreign media and web news and keeps the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Secretary of Foreign Affairs and officials in the Ministry and all Missions/Posts informed. Daily updates of the news items that are detrimental to the image of the Ministry and Sri Lanka are brought to the attention of the Foreign Secretary and rebuttals are issued when deemed necessary.

During the period under review, 265 Ministry Media Releases, 14 Statements and 421 Mission News and 116 Notices have been disseminated to local Print and Online Media and Foreign Correspondents based in Colombo with the same having been published in the print and online based media with regular broadcasts on television and radio.

The Division also engages daily on social media platforms to further strengthen public relations through Twitter (514 tweets), Facebook (206 posts), YouTube (5 uploads) and Instagram (200 posts). All Missions/Posts are often encouraged to engage on social media platforms for effective transmission of information to target audiences. The Missions/Posts are also encouraged to re-tweet/ repost Ministry tweets/posts as applicable.

The Division also facilitates foreign media coverage/filming in Sri Lanka. Although the period under review had setbacks due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and the economic crisis, the PD Division facilitated visits of nine film crews. The Division also coordinated many visits of foreign media crews and journalists such as:

- i. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) Péter Szijjártó of Hungary on 12 January 2022;
- ii. Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug of the Republic of Korea on 19 January 2022;
- iii. Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu of the Republic of Turkey on 28 January 2022;
- iv. Under Secretary for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, U. S. Department of State from 22-23 March 2022; and
- v. Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar of India from 28-30 March 2022.

In January 2022, the PD Division facilitated the visit of a team from One World Media and scheduled and coordinated a series of interviews with the Ministers/ Parliamentarians, government officials, industry and corporate leaders as requested by the One World Media team in order to publish a report in the USA Today on Sri Lanka, highlighting the business and investment opportunities in all sectors.

The Presidential Secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry, hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit on 28-30 March 2022. This Division coordinated with the foreign and local media teams ensuring coverage of the summit on all three days as well as one-to-one meetings with dignitaries.

By December 2022, the PD Division had coordinated with local and foreign media based in Sri Lanka to cover 5 major visits and 9 briefings and has provided the necessary facilities to extend 10 resident visas for foreign journalists in Sri Lanka. Until December 2022, 247 media accreditations have been issued for foreign journalists visiting Sri Lanka.

The Division has been actively providing Sri Lanka Missions/Posts information on policy statements and daily updates on key development pertaining to local Ministries/institutions relating to trade, investment promotions, tourism promotion, especially during emergency situations in Sri Lanka, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the evolving economic situation.

The Public Diplomacy Division has also been coordinating the work of the Strategic Communication Unit (SCU). In this regard, the Division liaised with leading independent media to propagate the Ministry's narrative on important and topical issues. Further, PD Division also facilitated the operationalization of the website of the SCU in coordination with the Sri Lanka Navy.

## 2.4.7 SAARC Division

The SAARC Division coordinates the activities conducted by the SAARC Secretariat, its five (5) Regional Centers, Specialized Bodies and Apex Bodies. The Division is in engagement with the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious & Cultural Affairs for administrative and functional activities of SAARC Cultural Center (SCC) in Colombo as and when necessary. Also, the Division issues the recommendation letters for the issuance of visas under SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) in coordination with the line Ministries/agencies.

### SAARC Visas – Number of SAARC visas issued under the SVES as at 31 Dec. 2022:

Category A	–	93 [Members of Parliament: 43 (Dependents -33) / other officials: 16 (Dependents -01)]
Category B	–	Nil

**Recruitment of the Desk Officer from Sri Lanka to the SAARC Secretariat:** Mr.S.M. Kapila Bandara who worked as a Development Officer of the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI), appointed as Desk Officer from Sri Lanka and assumed duties at the SAARC Secretariat w.e.f. 6 January 2022. The Division facilitated the recruitment process of Mr. Bandara.

**SAARC Cultural Centre (SCC):** A meeting was held with Prof. Prashanthi Narangoda, Director of the SCC in Colombo in order to discuss activities /programmes to be held this year on 25 August 2022. A Meeting was held on 6 October 2022 with the Secretary, Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and other relevant Officials and the DG/SAARC regarding the partly constructed building for the SCC in Navimana, Matara.

**SAARC Agriculture Center (SAC):** A meeting was held with Ms. Krishanthi Meegahapola, Director/Overseas Education of the Ministry of Education (MoE) on 21 September 2022 to discuss the updated status of the “MoU between the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) and the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya (PGIA-UoP)” and this Division is following up the same with the MoE. Dissemination of the information on the vacancy Announcement for the post of Senior Programme Specialist (Crops) at the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) was done by the Division and two applications from the Sri Lankan officers were transmitted. The Revised draft MoU between SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in Dhaka and the Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya (PGIA-UoP) with track change mode has been sent to the line Ministry for concurrence/ observations. On the request of the SAARC Secretariat, a letter has been sent to the Ministry of Agriculture on 5 December 2022 requesting concurrence/views/comments on the draft strategic framework of operations titled “SAARC Agriculture Vision”.

**SAARC Energy Center (SEC):** Coordinated with the line Ministry (Ministry of Power & Energy) to obtain the concurrence on the following Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) /Agreements:

- i. Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the study to develop a Standard Power Purchase Agreement Template for Buying and Selling Entities engaged in energy trade in the SAARC region. GoSL has given its concurrence for the draft ToR on 3 March 2022.
- ii. Proposed MoU between the SAARC and International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Concurrence was requested from the Ministry of Power and Energy on 15 December 2022.

### Facilitated the participation at the following online/physical programmes:

- i. Online training on Cross Border Power Trade and PPA among SAARC countries organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) held on 17-26 May 2022.
- ii. On the request of the SAARC Secretariat, concurrence of the Sri Lankan Government on the Draft Terms of Reference of the Study on Harmonization of Technical Standards for Interconnecting South Asia Transmission Infrastructure has been given to the SAARC Secretariat.

**SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Center (STAC):** Disseminated information regarding the recruitment of Professional Staff for the posts of Epidemiologist and Technical Officer (HIV/AIDS) at the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Center (STAC). Dr. Y.L. Sumal Nandasena, Deputy Regional Director of Health Services of Ministry of Health has applied for this post from Sri Lanka.

**SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC):** Facilitated the participation at the following online/physical programmes:

- i. Webinar on “Climate Risk Management in a changing environment” on 15 March 2022;
- ii. Residential regional workshop on “Assessing Drought Risks using Earth Observation Data & Launch of South Asia Drought Management System (SADMS) from 31 August to 2 September 2022 at SDMC(IU) in India; and
- iii. “Residential Workshop on Urban Resilience & making Cities Resilient” from 5-8 December at SAARC Disaster Management Centre, Gandhinagar, India. (Two officials from the line Ministry (Ministry of Urban Development and Housing) participated in the workshop.)

Details of Sri Lanka’s Focal Point on the SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters have been updated in coordination with the relevant line Ministry (State Ministry of Disaster Management).

**South Asian University (SAU):** Concurrence of the GoSL was obtained in coordination with the line agency (University Grants Commission) for the process of appointment of the Regular President of the SAU on 12 July 2022. A Meeting was held with Ms. Krishanthi Meegahapola, Director/Overseas Education of the Ministry of Education (MoE) on 21 September 2022 in order to discuss the establishment of a Medical Campus of SAU in Sri Lanka. The DG/SAARC requested an initial proposal on this matter, prepared in collaboration with the relevant line agencies in order to place the same for the Governing Board of the SAU. The Division is following up this matter with the MoE. A Meeting was held with Snr. Professor Sampath Amarasinghe, Chairman/UGC and relevant officials on the Clearance of dues owed by the GoSL on 28 December 2022.

**South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO):** Concurrence of the GoSL was obtained in coordination with the line agency (Sri Lanka Standard Institution) for the appointment of Dr. Shahzad Afzal (Ph.D) as the Director General of SARSO. Facilitated the participation of the SAARC-PTB Corporation on Quality Infrastructure: Concluding workshop on 11-12 October 2022 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

**SAARC Development Fund (SDF):** Disseminated information with the relevant line agency (Ministry of Health) on the Scholarships and Admission to MSc in Rehabilitation Science programme funded by the SDF at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh for its sixth batch on 23 September 2022. It is informed that there are Fifteen (15) Scholarships for international students in the SAARC Region.

#### **2.4.8 United Nations and Human Rights Division**

Sri Lanka’s Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, Geneva, and the Embassies/Permanent Delegations accredited to the affiliated agencies of the UN in Vienna, Paris, Rome, Nairobi, Bangkok and in The Hague come under the purview of this Division in the context of Sri Lanka’s multilateral relations.

**77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), New York, September 2022:** The Ministry made both substantive and logistical arrangements for the participation of the Sri Lanka delegation headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry at the High-Level Segment of the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA in September 2022. The Minister of Foreign Affairs addressed the High-Level segment of the UN General Assembly on 24 September 2022, and also participated and delivered a statement at the High-level meeting to mark the commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities held on 21 September 2022, on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA.

The Foreign Minister participated and delivered statements at other High-Level Meetings, including the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends on the Global Development Initiative, Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Group of 77, on the sidelines of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs met with the UN Secretary-General, UN Under-Secretary-General of the Counter-Terrorism, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political & Peacebuilding Affairs and Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Minister also met President Joe Biden of the United States at a reception hosted by the US Head of State to Heads of delegations to the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA Session during which he also met with Secretary of State of the United States.

On the sidelines of the High-Level Session of the UNGA, the Minister held bilateral consultations with Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the United Kingdom, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Somalia, Gambia, Namibia, United Arab Emirates, China, Kuwait, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Sudan. The Minister also met the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States, Deputy Administrator of the USAID and the Foreign Secretary of Nepal. The Minister also addressed a representative gathering of the Sri Lankan community in the tri-state area held at the premises of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka.

**Reconciliation and human rights: UN Human Rights Council, Geneva (49<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Sessions):** The Division coordinated Sri Lanka's continued engagement with all Members of the UNHRC and all UN Member States at officials, ministerial and Head of State level to seek support for Sri Lanka's position at UNHRC. Coordination of Sri Lanka's positions at the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva held in March (49<sup>th</sup> Session) and June (50<sup>th</sup> session) and September – 2021 (51<sup>st</sup> Session) was also carried out by the Division. During the 49<sup>th</sup> and the 51<sup>st</sup> Sessions of the HRC, the Foreign Minister delivered Sri Lanka statement as the country concerned, when the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her written update and comprehensive report on Sri Lanka were presented to the HRC respectively. Minister delivered a special statement to the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC in June 2022. During the March, June and September Sessions of the HRC, Sri Lanka made a number of interventions and co-sponsored 23 joint statements and 12 resolutions. A coordination process on human rights and reconciliation was continued, co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice. The Division coordinated 3 Joint Meetings which were held at the Foreign Ministry with the participation of the domestic institutions including Office on Missing Persons (OMP), Office of Reparations (OR), Office for National unity and Reconciliation (ONUR), Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) and Sustainable Development Council (SDC). In August and September 2022, the Division coordinated two meetings of Senior Officials Committee established by the Cabinet on HRC matters.

**Treaty Bodies and UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders:** Sri Lanka will continue to fulfil its on-going reporting obligations under 9 core UN Human Rights Treaties. In April 2022, stakeholder consultations were convened in relation to the drafting of Sri Lanka's national report under the 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), with the participation of 21 Line Ministries.

**4<sup>th</sup> Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR):** On 22 December 2022, the GoSL submitted the National Report of Sri Lanka for the 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. The Division coordinated and conducted consultations with the relevant Government and Non-Government stakeholders in the process of preparing the National Report. Two civil society consultations were coordinated in November 2022. The first civil society consultation was held in Colombo with the participation of 30 civil society representatives and the second consultation was held in the Northern Province with the participation of 35 civil society representatives. Both consultations were held in hybrid format and the input received from civil society was a constructive contribution. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) was consulted and contributed its input as an independent entity.

**Submission of Sri Lanka's periodic reports:** On 2 December 2022, the GoSL submitted its response to the Report following the visit of the UN Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) from 2-12 April 2019. In accordance with article 16 of the OPCAT, the GoSL requested that the report of the SPT as well as the response sent by the GoSL, to remain confidential. On 6 May 2022, Sri Lanka submitted its response to the list of issues in relation to

the review of Sri Lanka's 6th Periodic Report under the ICCPR which was postponed to 2023 October. On 22 April 2022, Sri Lanka submitted its 9th Periodic Report under the CEDAW.

**Disarmament:** During this period of heightened, focus on armament following the outbreak of conflict in Europe, the Division has been working to ensure that Sri Lanka is sensitive to the geopolitical developments, and maintains a balanced approach in every forum relating to disarmament. In keeping with Sri Lanka's longstanding commitment towards multilateral disarmament efforts, the Division continued to engage through the relevant Sri Lanka Missions, regarding Sri Lanka's participation, and the Government's position on the disarmament meetings held in year 2022. Some of the major engagements were:

- i. 10<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) held from 1 – 26 August 2022, where more than 15 interventions were made by Sri Lanka;
- ii. Conference on Disarmament held in February 2022, where the Foreign Minister made an intervention;
- iii. 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties of Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) held from 30 August – 2 September 2022 in Geneva, where Sri Lanka also served as the Vice President;
- iv. The Division took the lead in compiling the brief to be used by the GoSL delegation at the First Committee of the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA on 'Disarmament and International Security'. The First Committee took place from 29 September - 4 November 2022. The Division formulated Sri Lanka's positions related to the 76 Resolutions / Decisions presented. Sri Lanka's PRUN / NY served as the Chair of the First Committee. Sri Lanka made statements at the general debate and 6 Clusters.
- v. 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) held from 28 November – 2 December 2022, The Hague; and
- vi. Coordinating reconnaissance visit of the on-site inspectors (OSI) from CTBTO from 30 November – 7 December 2022 on the EOI of Sri Lanka to host the IFE-2025.

**Multilateral engagement in Science and Technology:** Sri Lanka's engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is coordinated by the Division. Sri Lanka participated and took an active role at the 66th IAEA General Conference held from 26 – 30 September 2022. The Division coordinated line agencies for the Sri Lanka's participation related to the UNODC Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate a UN Cybercrime Convention. Three sessions have been held so far this year with attendance from Sri Lanka. The Division coordinated the participation of Sri Lanka's delegation to the 41st General Assembly at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and assisted with formulating positions to take. The Division coordinated the Sri Lanka participation of the 4-member delegation including the Foreign Secretary, in the 3rd Science Diplomacy programme of CTBT in Vienna, from 6 – 9 December 2022, while preparing statements for the programme.

**Multilateral engagement in socio-economic sphere:** The Division continues to coordinate Sri Lanka's engagement in the multilateral fora that promotes international cooperation in the socio –economic spheres. In addition to regular engagement with these fora, the Division coordinated the following:

- i. **Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO):** The Division facilitated the visit of FAO Representative for Sri Lanka and Maldives Vimlendra Sharan which took place in July and September 2022 and coordinated meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other dignitaries.
- ii. **World Food Programme(WFP):** WFP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific John Ayliefe visited Sri Lanka from 1-2 September 2022. The Division facilitated the visit and coordinated meetings with the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Secretary of the Ministry of Finance.
- iii. **UNICEF:** The Division facilitated the visit of Regional Director of UNICEF for South Asia George Laryea-Adjei from 21 – 27 August 2022 and arranged meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other high-level dignitaries.

- iv. **United Nations Development Programme(UNDP):**Facilitated the visit of UNDP Deputy Regional Director Christophe Bahuet to Sri Lanka in August 2022 and coordinated a meeting with the Foreign Minister. Coordinated a farewell call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs by UNDP outgoing Resident Representative to Sri Lanka Robert Juhkam in December 2022. Facilitated, visa and necessary clearance for new UNDP Resident Representative to Sri Lanka Azusa Kubota to assume duties in January 2023. Facilitated and coordinated requested meetings for UN- Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and Pacific Kanni Wignarja, with high-level political dignitaries (The Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister)
- v. **World Health Organization:** 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia was held from 5-9 September 2022 in Paro, Bhutan and this Division facilitated the participation of Minister of Health at this Committee. Further, the Division coordinated and facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the 75<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly and other high-level meetings (36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Programme, Budget & Administration Committee of the Executive Board and the 151<sup>st</sup> session of the Executive Board).
- vi. **UNHCR:** Coordinated the visit of Director Indrika Ratwatte, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from 19 to 22 December 2022.Coordinated the efforts of SL Navy to rescue a group of 105 members aboard a distressed vessel floating in the Northern Sea along with relevant stakeholders.
- vii. **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** Sri Lanka presented its 2<sup>nd</sup> Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report 2022 on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held in New York in July 2022. The Division facilitated the participation of the Foreign Minister at the High-Level Segment of the ECOSOC 2022 Session and of the Foreign Secretary at the General Debate of the ECOSOC 2022 session held virtually from 13 to 16 July 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Provided necessary assistance for SDG related work in close coordination with Sustainable Development Council (SDC) and other GoSL Agencies in achieving 2030 Agenda. Being a steering committee member, the Division contributed to the work related to development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 for Sri Lanka in coordination with the Department of National Planning. Coordinated work related to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly held in Kigali, Rwanda, in October 2022.

**United Nations Organization for Drugs and Crimes (UNODC):** Sri Lanka's engagement with the UNODC was continued in year 2022, with participation of Sri Lanka coordinated by this Division at meetings and trainings in the areas of the human trafficking, drug smuggling, addressing corruption and cybercrime. In this regard, the Division works with line agencies, including the National Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce (NAHTF), National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) and Commission for the Investigation of Allegations of Bribery and Corruption (CIABOC).The Division coordinated the participation of experts in combatting Trafficking from The Philippines, Maldives and Malaysia at the "National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF) – Stakeholder Dialogue 2022" organized by the Ministry of Defence on 13 December 2022. The Division contributed as a member of the Committee of Officials appointed to draft comprehensive counter terrorism legislation to replace the PTA, with submissions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from the vantage point of international human rights commitments and obligations.

**Candidatures:** Professor Rangita De Silva De Alwis was elected to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women for the term 2023-2026 representing Sri Lanka at the elections conducted during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the State Parties to the CEDAW Convention at the United Nations in New York, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. The Division continued to coordinate Sri Lanka's efforts towards maintained friendly relationships with UN Member States by supporting candidatures proposed by other States to various positions at UN and other International Organizations. Accordingly, as at 30 September 2022, the Division processed 22 elections held on the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Committee on Elimination Racial Discrimination (CERD), Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW), United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), UN Security Council, International Labor Organization (ILO), Coalition for Education Development

(CED), International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) etc. The Division also coordinated Reciprocal Support Arrangements for Sri Lanka's candidatures to the ECOSOC, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

## **2.5 Performance Overview: Territorial Divisions**

### **2.5.1 Africa Affairs Division**

The Africa Affairs Division is assigned with duties and functions related to coordinating bilateral relations with 54 countries in the region, in addition to dealing with matters pertaining to the African Union, through 5 resident Sri Lanka Missions based in the countries namely; Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Seychelles and South Africa.

**Visit of the President of the South Africa:** Facilitated meetings between the President of South Africa and the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka (November 2022).

**Meetings between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials:** Courtesy Calls on the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs by the Heads of Mission of the African countries (South Africa, Egypt, Libya) were facilitated in addition to meetings between the Heads of Mission/representatives of the African Missions and the Director General of the Africa Affairs Division.

**Bilateral Relations:** 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Partnership Forum between the Foreign Ministries of South Africa and Sri Lanka held virtually (February 2022). Steps were taken to hold 3rd Joint Economic Commission between Sri Lanka and Egypt (first quarter 2023). Coordinated the issuance of a stamp to commemorate 65 years of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Egypt. (First quarter 2023)

**Multilateral Relations:** Facilitated and submitted substantive inputs for the CHOGOM, UNGA, UNEP and COP 27 Summits.

**Economic Diplomacy:** Arranged B2B meetings between Sri Lankan Business Delegation and Uganda Authorities and steps have been taken to explore new market opportunities in the African Continent.

**Expansion of Sri Lanka's Diplomatic Relations in the African Continent:** Steps were taken to establish Diplomatic Relations with Cameroon shortly. Engaged in the process to obtain Cabinet Approval for establishing formal Diplomatic Relations with Comoros and Sao Tome & Principe. Initial steps have been taken to regularize Diplomatic Relations with Burundi.

### **2.5.2 Americas Division**

Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with the Americas region are navigated through Missions/Posts in the United States of America (Washington D.C., New York, and Los Angeles), Canada (Ottawa and Toronto), Brazil, and Cuba under the guidance and direction of the Americas Division in the Ministry.

In 2022, the Ministry in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad coordinated and facilitated high-level interactions with political and official interlocutors, including meetings, for the President, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Foreign Secretary with dignitaries with the view to enhance bilateral and multilateral relations. On Economic Diplomacy, the respective Missions/Posts organized/facilitated activities to create awareness and promote Sri Lankan products in the respective markets; establish business contacts between the related institutions in those countries and Sri Lanka; and held interactions with relevant officials of the respective countries, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, etc. in enhancing economic revival in the country. The Missions/Posts continued to hold discussions with the officials in respective Governments to enhance Defence cooperation, including ensuring the receipt of military equipment, training opportunities, etc. The Missions provided consular assistance to OSLs in their respective countries, while also obtaining their assistance for Government's efforts in achieving economic development.

The Americas Division and respective Missions/Posts will continue to maintain a consistent policy dialogue through the already established 'policy dialogue' mechanisms to discuss multi-faceted aspects of the bilateral relations with the relevant countries while taking action to initiate 'policy dialogue' mechanisms with the countries such mechanisms are not available.

### **2.5.3 East Asia Division**

During the period of review, East Asia Division continued to further strengthen the Political, Economic, Socio-cultural and people to people relations with countries in the region, whilst providing consular assistance and labour welfare to the Sri Lankan nationals living in respective countries, through residential Missions in Australia, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and their concurrent accreditations.

**China:** Arranged Bilateral financial assistance of USD 1 billion, SWAP agreement of USD 1.5 billion, buyer's credit facility of USD 1.5 billion, and USD 500 million request for the import of petroleum products. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved USD 180 million loan for COVID-19 recovery for Small and Medium Scale Enterprises. China agreed to provide RMB 500 million (USD 74 million) of emergency humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka. Facilitated the visit of Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China from 8-9 January 2022. Action has been taken to register Ceylon Cinnamon as a food ingredient in China. Organized B2B meetings with prominent Chinese companies in the fields of textiles, gem & jewelry. Participated in trade and travel fairs organized by the Provincial Governments. Discussions were initiated with the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the UN Resident Coordinator in China to obtain assistance under South-South Cooperation for renewable energy, higher education, poverty alleviation, reforestation and blue economic development.

**Japan:** Facilitated the official visit of President Ranil Wickremesinghe to Japan from 26-28 September 2022 to attend the State Funeral of former Prime Minister late Shinzo Abe. The President held a Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and received a courtesy call by Minister of Foreign Yoshimasa Hayashi of Japan. Facilitated the official visit of Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment Manusha Nanayakkara who visited Japan from 26 September to 4 October 2022 and met the State Minister of Justice and the State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan. Discussed increasing of job categories for Sri Lankans. Coordinated USD 6.5 million worth of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance by Japan to procure essential medicines and food. Facilitated the visit of Director General Kano Takehiro of the Southeast and South West Asian Affairs Department of Japan. Facilitated the Japan-Sri Lanka Third Policy Dialogue Meeting held on 15 July 2022.

**Republic of Korea (RoK):** Facilitated the official visit of former Minister of Foreign Affairs Prof. G.L Peiris to the Republic of Korea from 5-7 January 2022 where he met Prime Minister Kim Boo-kyum and the official visit of the Speaker of the National Assembly of RoK to Sri Lanka from 19 to 22 January 2022. Coordinated a donation of 26 essential pharmaceutical items, worth over LKR 42 million by the Human Earth Welfare Non-Profit Organization of the Republic of Korea and the Korea-Sri Lanka Maha Viharaya. Furthermore, the Division continuously engaged with relevant South Korean authorities to increase the current re-entry limit of the EPS migrant workers as well as to upgrade the existing EPS quota for Sri Lanka.

**Australia:** Coordinated the donation of essential medicines worth of Sri Lanka LKR 66.9 million. (approx.) by the Department of Health, State of Victoria, Australia. In addition, SL Missions/Posts in Australia continued to promote Sri Lankan trade, exports, investments and tourism whilst assisting Sri Lankan nationals through consular and welfare services. Coordinated the donation of essential medicines worth of LKR 66.9 million. (approx.) by the Department of Health, State of Victoria, Australia. Coordinated AUD 50 million assistance by the Government of Australia via UN agencies and World Food Programme (WFP) and the additional AUD 25 million support to meet urgent food and healthcare needs. Successfully lobbied to relist LTTE as a banned organization in Australia w.e.f. 16 September 2022 for another 3 years under Counter terrorism financing sanctions.

**New Zealand:** Engaged with processing an MoU between the International Centre for Migration Policy Development of New Zealand and the State Ministry of Foreign Employment Promotion and Market Diversification of Sri Lanka. The New Zealand production of United Nations Handbook 2022-23 and commitment towards the UN values and principles of the organization represents have been dispatched. As a member of the United Nations, it is important for Sri Lanka that this handbook is kept up-to-date and it is useful for all member countries of the United Nations.

In addition, this Division, in conjunction with Sri Lanka Missions/Posts in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Seoul, Tokyo, Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne, took a number of progressive initiatives and action in order to boost the bilateral relations with concurrently accredited countries in East Asia region.

#### **2.5.4 Europe & Central Asia, European Union and Commonwealth Division**

**Bilateral Relations:** Holding of Joint Commissions/Political Consultations and Joint Committee Meetings- Bilateral Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and Netherlands-1st round was held in 2022 at Additional Secretary level. Work is in progress to hold the 3rd round of Sri Lanka – Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, in Colombo, in coordination with the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security. Initiated discussions regarding the Inaugural Bilateral Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and the UK. Facilitated the appointment of Honorary Consuls of Sri Lanka in Portugal, Hungary, Georgia, Germany, the Netherlands and the Russian Federation (Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Yekaterinburg). Facilitated the renewal of appointment of Sri Lanka Honorary Consuls in Kursk (Russian Federation), Armenia and Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka in Cardiff, UK. Facilitated the opening of the Honorary Consulate of Sri Lanka in Tirol, Austria on 1 December 2022. Celebrated the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Russia with the participation of high-level authorities.

**Facilitation of High Level, Inward and Outward Visits and Calls:** Facilitated outward/inward visits through the provision of substantive briefs/inputs and arranging of logistical arrangements.

**Inward visits:** Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu of Türkiye to Sri Lanka in January 2022. Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the United Nations at the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Peter Szijjarto of Hungary to Sri Lanka on 12 January 2022. Visit of the Minister of State of South Asia Tariq Ahmad to Sri Lanka from 18-20 January 2022. Visit of The Right Hon Lord Naseby, member of the House of Lords of UK to Sri Lanka from 26 March to 3 April 2022. High level Visit of the ‘France – Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group’ in French Senate to Sri Lanka from 22-27 March 2022. Visit to Sri Lanka by Lord Davies of Abersoch, UK Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy for Sri Lanka from 9 - 11 November 2022.

**Outward visits:** Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Prof) G.L. Peiris to attend the Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo–Pacific, Paris, on 24 February 2022- held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands. Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Prof) G.L. Peiris, to Geneva to participate in the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), March 2022- held bilateral meetings with Minister for South Asia, UN and the Commonwealth of FCDO Lord Ahmad of the UK. Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Prof) G.L. Peiris, to attend the Doha Forum on 26 and 27 March 2022- held bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Türkiye. Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Prof) G.L. Peiris to attend the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue from 10 to 12 June 2022 in Singapore-held a bilateral meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine. Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Geneva from 12-17 June to participate in the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Visit of the President Ranil Wickremesinghe to attend the State Funeral Service of Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022 in the UK. Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry to attend the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2022-held bilateral meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Uzbekistan, Armenia, and Minister of State of UK. Visit of the Ambassador of Sri Lanka (resident in Sweden) to Lithuania (6 April 2022), Norway and Finland (26-29 September 2022), to present credentials. Facilitated the 6th Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building (CICA) held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan from 12-13 October 2022. Facilitated the visit of the Minister of Education to Russian Federation as Special Representative of the President of Sri Lanka from 9-16 October 2022. Visit of Tourism and Land Minister Harin Fernando to the UK to attend the World Travel Mart on 7 November 2022. Visit of the Mayor Rosy Senanayake of Colombo Municipal Council to Italy from 10 – 22 November 2022. Visit of the Foreign Secretary to Austria to attend the CTBTO 3<sup>rd</sup> Science Diplomacy Symposium, 6-9 December 2022, Vienna, Austria.

**Facilitated the telephone calls and video calls:** Between the then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the UK on 30 May 2022. Between President Ranil Wickremesinghe and the Minister for South Asia, UN and the Commonwealth of FCDO Lord Ahmad of the UK on 16 August 2022. Between the President of Sri Lanka and Minister for South Asia, UN and the Commonwealth at FCDO of the UK on 23 July 2022.

**Facilitation and follow up on important bilateral Agreements/MoUs/Programmes:** Facilitated the signing of MoU between Sri Lanka and UK in Healthcare Cooperation on 18 January 2022. Facilitated Agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters between Sri Lanka and Russia through obtaining Cabinet approval making arrangements for signature. Facilitated signing the MoU on Cooperation within the Framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme for the year 2022-2024, between Sri Lanka and Hungary on 12 January 2022. Completed negotiations on Air Service Agreement between Sri Lanka and the Netherlands and secured Cabinet approval on 21 March 2022. Cabinet approval was received for the MoU between Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Russian Federation) and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Sri Lanka in the field of Youth Policy dated 5 July 2022 and is ready for signature with the change of the name of the Line Ministry. Negotiations completed and Cabinet approval to be obtained by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs for the MoU between Sri Lanka and Russia on Cooperation in the field of Physical Culture and Sports. Ready to sign the MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture between Sri Lanka and Türkiye. Signed the Agreement between the Government of Türkiye and Sri Lanka on donation in the Field of Health. Cabinet approval to be obtained for Agreement on cooperation in the field of Education between Sri Lanka and Turkey. MoU for Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education between the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka and the Council of Higher Education of Türkiye and MoU between the office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Sri Lanka and Ombudsmen Institution of Türkiye (KDK).

Signed the Agreement between Sri Lanka and the Government of France on the Authorization to engage in Paid Employment for Family Members of Agents of the Official Missions of each State in the Other State on 23 February 2022 in Paris and MoU between the Ministry of Plantation Industries of Sri Lanka and KSAPA company in France on the capacity building project for 6,000 Rubber smallholders (River Project). Finalized the Agreement between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg on Bilateral Consultations. Taken follow up action on the proposed MoU on Labour Cooperation between Sri Lanka and Malta. MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership between Sri Lanka and Italy and Bilateral Agreement for Mutual Recognition of Driving Licenses between Sri Lanka and Italy were facilitated.

**Multilateral Relations: Commonwealth** - Facilitated the visit by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Prof.) G. L. Peiris to Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda from 23 to 25 June 2022. During this visit, bilateral meetings were held with the Foreign Ministers of Dominica, New Zealand, Seychelles, Bangladesh, Kenya, Mauritius, India, Malaysia, Cyprus and Rwanda. Facilitated the Commonwealth Education Ministers' Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya on 28 April 2022, Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting from 17 to 19 May 2022 and Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham, UK from 28 July to 8 August 2022 and the Commonwealth Sports Ministers' Meeting held in Birmingham on 27 July 2022. Facilitated the Commonwealth Central Bank Governors Meeting, Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting, Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meeting in Washington D.C. and Mauritius in October and November 2022. Collaborated with the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia on the Development of Video Content of Care Givers (Elder) Course for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission in Sri Lanka.

**European Union** – Facilitated the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the EU-SL Joint Commission held on 8 February 2022 in Brussels and work in progress to convene the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the EU-SL Joint Commission in 2023. Facilitated the EU-SL Working Group in Development Cooperation on 2 February 2022. Facilitated and coordinated matters related to the conduct of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group on Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights held in Colombo on 28 October 2022 where EU has taken stock of the progress made on relevant issues. Coordinated an online meeting with a group of parliamentarians led by the Foreign Minister and the Members of South Asia Delegation (DSAS) in the EU Parliament on 17 November 2022. The Friends of Sri Lanka Group was re-launched on October 25, 2022 in Brussels, with the participation of 22 MEPs representing various political groups in the EU Parliament.

**Economic Diplomacy:** Finalized the MoU between Sri Lanka and UK in Healthcare cooperation (signed on 18 January 2022) which will allow the sustainable and ethical recruitment of healthcare professionals from Sri Lanka. The first meeting of the joint Committee established under the Sri Lanka-UK MoU on Healthcare Cooperation was held. Facilitated negotiations among relevant Line Ministries relating to the issue of resuming direct flights by Aeroflot which will contribute towards promotion of tourism. Facilitated relaxation of Travel advisories on Sri Lanka through Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad. Established a cooperation between People's Bank of Sri Lanka and the Natsinvstprom Bank in Moscow for the benefit of Russian tourists. Facilitating the action initiated by the

Mission in London to get designated status for Sri Lanka, for the recognition of Sri Lankan Driving Licence in the UK. Facilitated the delivery of Norwegian Vessel 'Misje Vita' worth around Euro 10 million to Colombo Dockyard PLC. Discussion are in progress of the development of highway infrastructure with concessional financing from Hungary. Facilitated 15th International Charity Bazaar 2022 in Warsaw (5 December 2022).

Facilitated tourism promotion events, through Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad and the private sector, with a series of webinars. Facilitated a donation of refurbished bicycles to the people of Sri Lanka from the Government of Switzerland. Organized a Sri Lanka destination familiarization tour for 9 Polish Travel Agents promoting eco to luxury travel, from 9-19 October 2022 with the collaboration of the Sri Lankan Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB). Participated at the World Travel Market 2022, in November with participation of 57 Sri Lankan travel and hospitality companies. Conducted a workshop to enhance awareness of the grant of EU PGI status to Ceylon Cinnamon in Belgium on 18 October 2022 with the participation of EU officials, media, and Cinnamon importers and distributors in Belgium. Coordinated and assisted the organizers of the Destination Car Rally organizers in Belgium in connection with conducting a Destination Classic–Sri Lanka 2023 car rally in Sri Lanka in January 2023. Assisted a media team of BBC to visit Sri Lanka to film 'Global Questions', 'HardTalk' and 'Newsnight' programmes in Sri Lanka. Assisted Geographer's visit prime time feature documentary produced by SVT in Sri Lanka. Initiated discussions for possible FDI opportunities in Agriculture and food processing sector in the Netherlands, Initiated IT/IT enable services and BPO in the Netherlands. Facilitated recruitment of more than 3,220 employees (Spa Therapists-10, Jewellery Makers-10, Heavy Truck drivers - 650, and hotel workers – 2,550) by registering five (5) job orders received from Turkish recruiting company (AST Global). Participated at the World Food Fair in Istanbul from 1–4 September 2022 and facilitated participation of two (2) Sri Lankan companies at the fair for B2B meetings. Organized a business delegation comprising 40 Sri Lankan entrepreneurs to take part in the Prodexpo-2022, a major trade fair in Moscow. Established corporate discussions with Swedish global chain and Sri Lanka manufacturing companies on sustainable food, furniture, fabric for biz outcome in 2023. Facilitated Sri Lanka participation at 'International Green Week' Berlin and 'Ambiente' Frankfurt scheduled to be held in first quarter of year 2023.

**Defence & Security Cooperation:** Facilitated participation of Sri Lanka officials in several security and defense related meetings abroad. Facilitated training and capacity building of Sri Lanka officials through coordination of Sri Lanka resident Missions and foreign Missions in Colombo. Provided updated information to the Sanctions Policy Division of the European External Action Service (EEAS) in view of extending the ban of the EU on the LTTE in the biannual revision of the EU List of Persons, Groups, and Entities involved in terrorist activities.

**Migrant Labour Welfare/Overseas Sri Lankans & COVID-19 and Economic Crisis related activities:** Facilitated repatriation of several Sri Lankan nationals found stranded abroad in regions including Diego Garcia (British Indian Ocean Territory), Central and Eastern Europe. Facilitated repatriation of Sri Lankan nationals in Ukraine, Türkiye and Georgia.

**COVID-19 related Assistance:** Facilitated for the donation of the emergency medicine and medical equipment from several countries including France, Türkiye, Germany, and Serbia.

**Economic Crisis related assistance:** The grant of Norwegian Kroner 13 million (approx. LKR 490 million) made by the Norwegian Government to Sri Lanka on 1 August 2022, channeled through the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Sri Lanka. Facilitated the grant of Euro 300,000 made by the Italian Government to Sri Lanka in July with the view to improving food security in the country. Facilitated Dutch charitable foundations providing assistance for the under-privileged communities in Sri Lanka in the sectors of poverty alleviation and sustainable development through micro credit, environmental conservation and green technologies, health and sanitation, culture, education and training opportunities.

Facilitated visas for official visits and regarding humanitarian issues. Facilitated cooperation between Georgian Rugby Union and Sri Lanka Rugby.

## 2.5.5 Middle East Division

**Bilateral Relations:** On 2 March 2022, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi arranged a telephone call between the President of Sri Lanka and His Highness Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, then Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, (Current President), to discuss the possible collaboration in the oil sector. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Doha facilitated the telephone call between His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, and former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on 21 March 2022 and discussed prospects for supporting each other. The Division facilitated high-level visits including the following with the assistance of respective Sri Lankan Missions/ Posts abroad to elevate the bilateral relations:

- i. Visit of His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to Sri Lanka on 14 March 2022;
- ii. Visit of State Minister of Regional Cooperation Tharaka Balasuriya to the KSA on 19 – 21 March 2022;
- iii. Visit of former Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris to the UAE to participate at the EXPO-Sri Lanka National Day on 3 January 2022. The Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga and State Minister of Gem and Jewellery Lohan Ratwatte also attended the event.

Legal formalities were completed to make into force the Agreement on the exemption from visa requirements for Diplomatic and Official passports of Sri Lanka and Bahrain, w.e.f. 26 July 2022. Israel Government has agreed to provide technical assistance under the MARPOL Convention to tackle maritime disasters.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Bahrain met with Dr. Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Dajj Al Khalifa, Secretary-General of the Higher Education Council (HEC) of Bahrain and Vice Chairperson of its Board of Trustees on 24 December 2022 and discussed cooperation on higher education between two countries.

The Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Kuwait met the Assistant Undersecretary of the Kuwait Health Ministry to initiate action on signing of the MoU between the two Governments to secure employment opportunity for Sri Lanka healthcare professionals in the government health care sector of Kuwait.

**Economic Diplomacy:** The Division facilitated the following activities during the reporting period:

- i. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and the Government of Sri Lanka entered into a loan agreement to construct and equipped the Medical Faculty in the University of Moratuwa, during the visit of a KFAED delegation to Sri Lanka in February 2022.
- ii. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Doha in collaboration with the Export Development Board, made arrangements to exhibit Sri Lankan Agro products at the AgriteQ 2022 at the Qatar's 9th International Agricultural Exhibition which was held from 10-14 March 2022 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).
- iii. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Tel Aviv has obtained investment proposals in the Field of Agriculture (seed potato farming), Dairy farming, and renewable energy sectors, and the Division followed up with the respective Line agencies to expedite the implementation of the proposals. The Embassy also obtained a trade/business opportunity from a leading Israeli Supermarket Chain "Shufersal" through the Federation of Israeli Chamber of Commerce (FICC) to import Tea from Sri Lanka to Israel. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Tel Aviv obtained a trade/business opportunity from a leading Israeli company "M/s. Green Field Foods Ltd." (one of Israeli's largest wholesalers of organic food) through the Federation of Israeli Chamber of Commerce (FICC) to import organic foods (organic coconut cream containing 20-22% fat in Tetra Pack of 300 ml, 500 ml and 1 Liter) from Sri Lanka to Israel.
- iv. Secured approval in principle from Bahraini authorities for Sri Lanka's request for designating FITS Aviation (Private) Limited as a Scheduled International Passenger & Cargo Airline to Bahrain under the Air Services Agreement between Sri Lanka and Bahrain.

- v. The Sri Lanka Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate General in Dubai together with the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka arranged a business forum from 17 -20 February 2022 at the Dubai Exhibition Centre.
- vi. The Consulate General in Dubai facilitated the establishment of the Sri Lanka Trade Office Dubai LLC, based in Dubai, with a view to assisting Sri Lankan businessmen /entrepreneurs who wish to link with business partners in the UAE.
- vii. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah, along with the Ceylon Tea Board participated in the Foodex 2022- Jeddah and established the linkage with several companies importing food products to the KSA.
- viii. A Sri Lankan Arabica Coffee promotion was held on 23 March 2022 to introduce Sri Lankan coffee to Jordan.
- ix. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Oman organized the first ever visit of 17-member high-level Omani business delegation led by the Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) to Sri Lanka from 5-9 March 2022. The delegation explored trade and investment opportunities in Sri Lanka.
- x. Organized a discussion on Ceylon Tea Market in Iran on 2 March 2022 and a promotional Event on the “Golden Paradise Visa Programme”, on 27 June 2022 in Tehran.

**Migrant Labour Welfare, Overseas Sri Lankans:** The Division and the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi facilitated the first Joint Committee Meeting under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sri Lanka and the UAE in the field of Manpower. The meeting was held virtually on 6 April 2022. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kuwait in coordination with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment processed 48,883 migrant worker contracts during the period under review and as per SLBFE records 59,690 Sri Lankans left Sri Lanka for employment in Kuwait. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kuwait also facilitated the repatriation of vulnerable Sri Lankans including those who were in the hospitals to Sri Lanka with the support of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, the Kuwait Aid Network, the Patients Assistant Fund, the Salvation Army of Kuwait, the Kuwait Humanitarian and Friendship Society, the Social Workers Society and the Sandigan Kuwait. The Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Bahrain at a meeting held on 27 December 2022 with the Minister of Labour and Social Development and Chairman of Board of Directors of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) of Bahrain discussed labour relations. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Riyadh created 96,188 new employment opportunities in various job categories in the KSA. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Jordan obtained 10,188 job opportunities for Sri Lankans during the reporting period. The Embassy of Sri Lankan in Bahrain organized a free Medical Camp and Clinic in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Engineering Society and the American Mission Hospital in Bahrain on 17 June 2022.

**COVID 19-related activities:** Qatar Red Crescent Society has allocated a sum of USD 100,000 to strengthen the capacity of the health Sector of Sri Lanka with medicines and urgently need medical supplies. During the period under review, a non-governmental organization and two private sector entities, in Kuwait contributed to the purchase of medical items and equipment worth over USD 35,000. The Oman Government is agreed to provide medical aid worth USD 1,000,000 on 16 September 2022 and the Division is following up with the relevant authorities.

### 2.5.6 South Asia Division

**Bilateral Relations:** The South Asia Division in coordination with the SLHC/New Delhi facilitated the visit of Joint Secretary (Indian Ocean Region) Puneet Agrawal, Ministry of External Affairs of India on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The SLHC/New Delhi facilitated the visit of Minister of Transport & Highways and Mass Media Bandula Gunawardana to India in November 2022 to enhance cooperation in the fields of transport and connectivity. The SLHC/New Delhi participated at the 3<sup>rd</sup> No Money for Terror (NMFT) Ministerial Conference in New Delhi in November 2022. The SLEMB/Kathmandu organized a Dialogue titled “Nepal-Sri Lanka Friendship: From Ancient Links to the Present” on 19 December 2022 to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Nepal, with the Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA). The SLHC/Dhaka facilitated meetings between Foreign Minister Ali Sabry with the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and the State Minister of Shipping of Bangladesh during his visit to Dhaka from 24-26 November 2022 to attend the meetings as the Vice Chair of the IORA at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Council of

Ministers' Meeting. The SLHC/Male coordinated the meeting of Minister of Environment Naseer Ahamed with the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Technology of Maldives on the sidelines of the World Leaders Summit of COP27 held in November 2022 in Egypt. The SLHC/Islamabad facilitated visit of a delegation headed by State Minister of Finance Shehan Semasinghe to Pakistan in December 2022 by coordinating meetings with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Planning of Pakistan. The SLHC/Islamabad formalized the appointment of the Sri Lanka Honorary Consul for Hyderabad.

**Multilateral Relations:** The SLHC/Male participated at the event organized by UN Maldives to mark the World UN Day celebration held on 4 November 2022, with a stall showcasing the diversity of the Sri Lankan people and culture. The SLHC/ New Delhi coordinated and represented Sri Lanka at the meetings of multilateral organizations based in New Delhi (including AALCO, AARDO, ISA, CDRI, NAM S&T Centre).

**Economic Diplomacy:** The SLHC/Islamabad and the SLCG/Karachi facilitated the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Joint Working Group on "Trade, Investment and Auto Sector" between Pakistan and Sri Lanka (JWG) held virtually on 15 December 2022. The SLHC/Dhaka in collaboration with the SriLankan Airlines participated in the 9th Asian Tourism Fair (ATF) held in Bangladesh from 29-30 September and 1 October 2022. The SLHC/Dhaka with the support of Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLBC) organized a MICE FAM tour from 19 to 25 November 2022, for 5 Bangladeshi Travel agents and 2 Media personnel. The Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry met with the Sri Lankan Business community in Bangladesh and the Bangladesh business professionals at a reception held at the Official Residence of the High Commissioner on 24 November 2022. The SLHC/Male met with the Managing Director of the State Trading Organization (STO) of Maldives on 15 December 2022 and discussed business opportunities for Sri Lankan companies with the STO. The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to the Maldives and the Chairman of Cey-Nor Corporation met with the Minister of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture of Maldives on 29 December 2022 and discussed several areas of cooperation to build a mutually beneficial relationship. The SLCG/Karachi organized a Webinar on 12 October 2022 to introduce Sri Lankan exporters of coconut fiber products, coconut cell charcoal/activated carbon products to Pakistan importers. The SLCG/Karachi organized a Webinar on 19 October 2022 to introduce Sri Lankan exporters of desiccated coconut, defatted coconut, coconut oil, virgin coconut oil to Pakistan importers. The SLCG/Karachi organized a Webinar on 2 November 2022 to introduce ceramic and porcelain products to Pakistan importers. The SLCG/Karachi organized a Webinar on 16 November 2022 to introduce Sri Lankan exporters of roofing tiles/ceramic floor & wall tiles/wooden floor to Pakistan importers.

**Public Diplomacy:** The SLHC/ Dhaka participated in a Fair organized by the SAARC Ladies Association of Bangladesh on the occasion of the Association's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 5 November 2022 at Hotel Westin Dhaka. The SLHC/ Dhaka arranged a press interview for Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry with Diplomatic Correspondent Porimol Palma of the Daily Star Newspaper of Bangladesh on 23 November 2022 and television interview with the DBC Channel of Bangladesh on 25 November 2022. The SLHC/ New Delhi unveiled a bust of Sir D.B. Jayatilaka, first Representative of Sri Lanka to India at the High Commission on 7 November 2022.

**Defence & Security Cooperation:** The South Asia Division in coordination with the SLHC/New Delhi facilitated the visit of India's Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral R. Hari Kumar to Sri Lanka from 13-15 December 2022. The Third Round of Pakistan-Sri Lanka Armed Forces Defense Dialogue (AFDD) was held in Expo Centre, Karachi from 16-17 November 2022.

**Other:** The SLEMB/ Kathmandu dispatched 10 tons of Normal saline and other essential medicines worth of USD 25000 which was handed over by the International Buddhist Society in Lumbini on 12 October 2022. The SLEMB/ Kathmandu facilitated the visit of the team the stage play "Raja Man Wahala," to represent Sri Lanka at the Nepal International Theater Festival (NITFest) 2022. The team was in Nepal from 26 November to 4 December 2022. The SLHC/ Islamabad and the SLCG/Karacchi facilitated the donation of a consignment of Ceylon Tea to the flood victims of Pakistan on 21 September 2022.

## 2.5.7 South East Asia Division

**Bilateral Relations:** Revitalization of bilateral cooperation through enhanced political consultations with accredited destinations: Preparations to hold 1<sup>st</sup> round of bilateral political consultations with Malaysia to mark the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations, 4<sup>th</sup> round of Joint Commission of Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation with Viet Nam, 5<sup>th</sup> round of Political Consultations with Thailand and 1<sup>st</sup> round of Foreign Office Consultations with Singapore. Successfully conducted the 4<sup>th</sup> Round of Bilateral Political Consultation between Sri Lanka and Viet Nam via online format on 24 January 2022. Measures taken to initiate, finalize and renew bilateral instruments on: Agriculture, Defence, Tourism, Air Services, Combatting Illicit Trafficking and Abuse in Narcotic drugs with Philippine/Election Cooperation, Creative Economy and Sport with Indonesia /Education, Mutual Assistance in Custom Matters, Agriculture Cooperation, Mutual Protection and Exchange of Classified Information with Viet Nam/SEP and Culture with Thailand/ Cultural Cooperation, Education, Tourism, Trade, Sport and Commerce with Cambodia and Lao PDR. Facilitated the hybrid webinar to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Sri Lanka and Indonesia at Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute.

**Strengthening bilateral relations through high-level interactions:** Working visit of President Ranil Wickremesinghe to the Philippines for the 55th Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors in September 2022, (Bilateral meeting between President Ranil Wickremesinghe and President of the Philippines Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. was held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022), Coordinated the transit visit of President Ranil Wickremesinghe to Singapore, Coordinated the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs (Prof.) G. L. Peiris to Singapore in June, 2022 at the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan. A delegation led by the Speaker of the Parliament attended the 144<sup>th</sup> Inter- Parliamentary Union Assembly which was held from 20-24 March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. Minister of Public Security Tiran Alles, accompanied by a high-level delegation undertook an official visit to Singapore from 25-29 October 2022. High level engagements at the political level for the year 2022 were concluded with a transit visit to Singapore by State Minister of Foreign Affairs Tharaka Balasuriya.

**Multilateral Relations:** Frequent engagement with UN agencies, ASEAN, ARF, CPSC, UNESCAP and ReCCAP and building partnerships to complement the government's development agenda. Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry participated at the 29<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (Foreign Ministerial level) in August 2022 in Cambodia. Director General/Southeast Asia participated at ARF 13<sup>th</sup> ISM on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (NPD) in April 2022 to represent Sri Lanka as co-chair with Thailand, and the US via virtual format. Sri Lanka chaired the session on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Wunna Maung Lwin represented Myanmar at the 5th BIMSTEC Summit hosted by Sri Lanka, on 30 March 2022, virtually. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Don Pramudwinai, visited Sri Lanka to represent the Kingdom of Thailand at the 5th BIMSTEC Summit hosted by Sri Lanka on 30 March 2022. Indonesia co-sponsored draft resolution submitted by Sri Lanka on World Sea grass Day and the resolution was adopted at the UN General Assembly on 23 May 2022.

Economic Diplomacy: Facilitation of business-to-business interactions between prospective buyers/ investors in the accredited countries and Business parties in Sri Lanka through the respective Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad:

- i. **SLEMB/ Indonesia:** Conducted meetings with Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, arranged B2B meetings to promote Sri Lankan products such as Sanjeewa Ayurvedic products, Dankotuwa porcelain and David Pieris Motor Company etc., organized a tourism promotion event at the Jakarta Expo in July 2022.
- ii. **SLEMB/Malaysia:** Organized and facilitated Sri Lanka participation at three Trade exhibitions namely Malaysia International Food & Beverages Hybrid Trade fair (MIFB), Agro Commodity Expo and Selangor International Expo (F&B) in collaboration with Sri Lanka Tea Board, trade chambers and business entities.
- iii. **SLEMB/Philippine:** Investment opportunities were introduced to a reputed Philippine conglomerate (Aboitiz Group, Magsaysay Group and Frabelle Group), Mission has provided assistance to Sri Lankan ICT companies, promoted Sri Lankan export products to leading Philippine retail chains (SnR, Robinsons etc).
- iv. **SLEMB/Singapore:** Organized a virtual buyer-seller meeting in collaboration with the Export Development Board and Gem Traders Association in Singapore, arranged more than 100 B2B meetings between Sri Lankan and Singapore companies either virtually or physically in promoting trade opportunities in Sri Lanka, FDI received from Singapore to Sri Lanka is US\$ 6 million. for the first half of 2022.

- v. **SLEMB/Vietnam:** Facilitated B2B meetings between leading Sri Lankan companies such as David Peries Motor Company, Maliban Biscuit Manufactories etc and Vietnam companies, organized the First Fam tour for Vietnamese travel agents to Sri Lanka, and organized a media outreach programme between the FAM trip participants and 12 Vietnamese media in March 2022.
- vi. **SLEMB/Myanmar:** Discussions were held with the authorities and other stakeholders to establish direct air connectivity between Sri Lanka and Myanmar. Initiations were made on the Circuit connectivity between Colombo – Yangon – Bodhgaya or Colombo – Yangon - Kathmandu linking significant religious tourist destinations. Signed bilateral agreement between two countries in January 2022 to supply 50,000 metric tons of Myanmar Parboiled Rice and 100,000 metric tons of Myanmar White Rice to Sri Lanka during 2022 – 2023.
- vii. Conducted a series of discussions with the public and private sectors in the accredited countries to attract investments to Colombo Port City project and other identified locations in the country.

**Promotion of Sri Lankan products/tourism through exhibitions/virtual conferences, and other platforms:**  
**Indonesia** – Organized Tourism Promotion event at Bundaran HI MRT Station in Jakarta. **Myanmar** – Government of Myanmar has officially and openly invited Sri Lankan Investors and Experts in the areas of Tea and Coconut products to invest in Myanmar. **Malaysia** – Attended an investment proposal on Mother Vessel by a Malaysian investor and arranged a virtual meeting with BOI officials’ to explore the possibilities of the investment under BOI. Organized and participated at the WorldTEX Tourism 2022 hybrid event to promote Sri Lanka tourism among Malaysian travelers in collaboration with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau. **Singapore**–Coordinated the participation of Sri Lankan companies at six Singapore Trade and Tourism Fairs namely International Tea and Coffee Asia, Specialty and Fine Food Asia, Singapore International Jewellery Expo, Food and Hotel Asia, Jewellery and Gem World, ILTM Asia Pacific. **Viet Nam** - Participated at the Viet Nam Expo in Ha Noi in March 2022. **Philippines** – Working to promote Island Tea Co., a Sri Lankan owned milk tea franchise in the Philippines.

**Defence and Security Cooperation:** Established cooperation among the defence establishments/ Coordination the participation of military officers in the capacity building programs offered by the respective accredited destinations. The Ministry of Defence has obtained the Cabinet approval to sign the Letter of Intent of Defence Cooperation between Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The SLEMB/Manila has participated 4th Asian Defence, Security and Management (ADAS) 2022 in April 2022. Measures were taken to finalize MoUs with Defence authorities in the accredited destinations in areas of defence cooperation, Intelligence Exchange Cooperation, Cooperation in the field of Transnational Crimes, Radicalization, and Violent Extremism.

**Public Diplomacy:** Undertook effective promotion of government policies relevant to national development agenda, such as trade, investment, tourism, foreign employment, people to people contacts through events/activities organized by Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad. Participated in similar events organized by institutes, companies, associations in the accredited destinations. The SLHC/Singapore facilitated the shipment of 1000 robes as pirikara donated by Mahakaruna Buddhist Society for the Maha Sanga who participated at the Jaya Pirith Ceremony held in May 2022. Publication of six research papers written by eminent scholars from Sri Lanka in the Special Journal Issue on Sri Lanka by VASS/IISAS of Viet Nam in October 2022.

**Migrant Labour Welfare, Overseas Sri Lankan & COVID-19 related activities:** The SLHC/Singapore coordinated the donation of essential medical supplies worth approximately SGD 68,000 as an initial consignment which was donated by Singapore Red Cross in collaboration with Sri Lanka Red Cross. The SLEMB/Yangon was able to get a pardon for the 7 Sri Lankan fisherman who were arrested by the Myanmar authorities in December 2021, who were repatriated in March 2022. Providing consular assistance, facilitate the welfare of Sri Lankan nationals residing in the accredited destinations through Sri Lanka Missions/Posts in Southeast Asia region; repatriation, extension of visas and resolved various grievances faced by Sri Lankans, handled death cases and resolved many cases related to labor and welfare.

## 2.6 Performance Overview: Operational Divisions

### 2.6.1 Consular Affairs Division

The Consular Affairs Division and its Regional Consular Offices in Jaffna, Matara, Kandy, Trincomalee and Kurunegala, in accordance with the Consular Functions Act No. 4 of 1981 and the subsequent amendment of Act No. 18 of 2006, assist Sri Lankan citizens who reside both in the country and abroad through Sri Lanka Diplomatic Missions/Posts. The Consular Affairs Division provides its consular services through five Sections, namely; Document Authentication, Repatriation, Compensation, Deaths abroad and Miscellaneous.

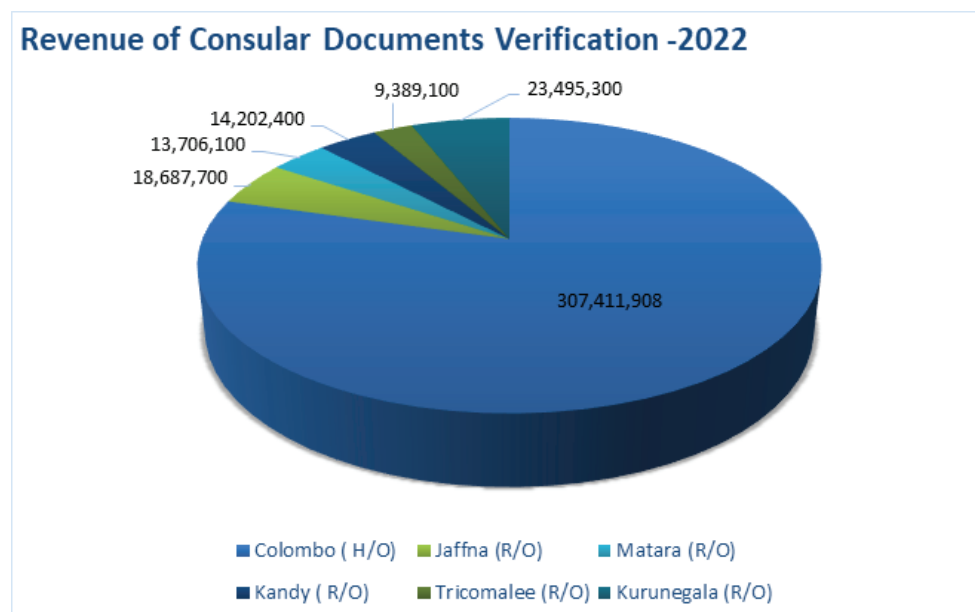
During the period under consideration, a total income of LKR 307,411,908 was received by the Consular Division authenticating 444,131 documents of 182,438 applicants. In addition, income of LKR 18,687,700.00 was received by the Regional Consular Office (RCO) Jaffna authenticating 23,336 documents serving 10,690 applicants, income of LKR 13,706,100 was received by the RCO Matara authenticating 18,133 documents, serving 12,783 applicants, income of LKR 14,202,400 was received by the RCO Kandy authenticating 18,281 documents serving 11,598 applicants, income of LKR 9,389,100 was received by RCO Trincomalee by authenticating 11,997 documents serving 7,840 applicants and income of LKR 23,495,300.00 was received by RCO Kurunegala authenticating 29,999 documents serving 20,009 applicants, during the period under review.

The Table- III below summarizes the statistics of the consular documents verification of the Division and its regional offices during the reporting period.

**Table-III – Statistics of the Consular Documents Verification-2022**

Consular Office	No. of Documents Handled	No. of Applicants	Revenue Generated (LKR)
Colombo ( H/O)	444131	182,438	307,411,908
Jaffna (R/O)	23,336	10,690	18,687,700
Matara (R/O)	18,133	12,783	13,706,100
Kandy ( R/O)	18,281	11,598	14,202,400
Tricomalee (R/O)	11,997	7,840	9,389,100
Kurunegala (R/O)	29,999	20,009	23,495,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>545,877</b>	<b>245,358</b>	<b>386,892,508</b>

**Figure-III – Revenue of Consular Documents Verification-2022**



The Consular Division held several discussions to integrate the Electronic Document Attestation System (e-DAS) of this Division with the Department of Registrar General and Department of Examinations to facilitate efficient attestation of Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates and O/L & A/L examination Certificates. Test run for the attestation of certificates, issued by the Registrar General's Department has been successfully conducted. A discussion, chaired by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs was held to take up and mitigate existing IT related issues to enhance uninterrupted authentication service through e-DAS with the participation of relevant service providers including Sri Lanka Telecom and EPIC Lanka.

The Division in collaboration with the e-channeling PLC of Sri Lanka Mobitel officially introduced the e-channeling appointment system on 29 September 2022 in order to mitigate a large gathering outside the Consular Affairs Division in Colombo and its Regional Consular Offices in Jaffna, Matara, Kandy, Trincomalee and Kurunegala for services, as a major achievement of the Consular Division during the corresponding period. Discussions have also been initiated to integrate e-channeling appointment system with the e-DAS.

During the period under review, 527 deaths (including 16 COVID-19 and 511 non-COVID-19 deaths) were reported to the Division as a total and the remains of 250 Sri Lankan deceased overseas were repatriated to Sri Lanka and 277 were buried/cremated overseas with the consent of the Next of Kin (NoK). In coordination with the Sri Lankan Missions/Posts abroad, the Death Section has extended other assistance including obtaining foreign death certificates, medical reports, post-mortem reports, cancelled passports of the deceased, etc. The Section was able to transmit 324 such Consular Death Certificates to the respective NoKs, during the corresponding period. While granting approval to send personal belongings of 50 deceased Sri Lankans, the Section was able to hand over 41 out of those to the relevant family members in Sri Lanka.

Approximately, LKR 600.5 million (Direct remittance to NoK – LKR 107.5 million and credited to the GDA-LKR 493 million) has been recovered and distributed among 160 family members/victims as compensation/blood money and other dues, during this period, with the assistance of Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad. The highest compensation amounts amongst the received compensation from the Missions/ Posts during the period were LKR 31,151,680 from the Sri Lankan Embassy in Saudi Arabia and LKR 86,718,000 from the Sri Lanka Embassy in Japan.

The Repatriation Section of the Consular Division directly deals with Sri Lanka Missions/Posts Abroad and local authorities to repatriate Sri Lankans who were stranded/detained abroad with the request of their NOKs. During the period under review, it handled 502 repatriation cases including 120 jail cases. Majority of these incidents/grievances were related to the victims who entered Oman and Iran on visit visas with the purpose of obtaining work permits. The Division participated in the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF) meetings and provided necessary information to prepare Trafficking in Persons (TIP) reports. The TIP Report 2022 released on 19 July 2022 by the United States Department of State has upgraded Sri Lanka to Tier2. Sri Lanka has remained in the Tier 2 Watch List for the last three years raising concerns about being downgraded to Tier 3 and being subject to certain restrictions on US assistance as well as assistance from multilateral development banks.

A number of various consular matters were handled by the Miscellaneous Section of this Division, during the period under review. Assisted to obtain 422 foreign Police Clearance Certificates from various Sri Lanka overseas Missions/Posts. Around 907 miscellaneous cases including assistance for passport related matters (388), verification of foreign degree certificates (204) matters related to Sri Lankan pensioners (315), and Sri Lankan driving license were attended. 57 Fishing Vessels were assisted for their release and return, 293 fishermen were repatriated. Distributed 540 birth certificates who were born outside Sri Lanka. Assisted 86 applicants to confirm their Non-Machine-Readable Passports (NMRPs) and related documents for registration of their children's births. Handed over 33 citizenship certificates to the respective applicants and assisted nearly 24 cases to expedite the process of issuing citizenship certificates. There were 25 death sentence cases in gulf countries, among them, three were repatriated. Around 35 cases such as legal related matters, locate the whereabouts of biological parents etc. were assisted.

With an intention to improve the capabilities of the officials who are responsible of handling consular related matters and identify contemporary Consular issues in the Sri Lanka overseas Missions/Posts, the Consular Affairs Division arranged a series of awareness programmes on Consular related matters virtually with the support of the respective Government institutions and resource persons. The Consular fees structure for the attestation of documents has been revised.

In addition to the above, the Director General, Consular Affairs took part as a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Committees/Boards/Interview panels such as; Dual Citizenship Committee, Committee to the Relation of the Foreign Ministry in one house building, Board of Directors of SLBFE, Committee to revise charges levied under Consular Act, Committee to facilitate return of displaced persons living in India, a Special Committee to identify and make recommendation to resolve issues of the Sri Lanka Refugee returnees from India, Represent the Ministry to serve in the Committee to appoint officers to the employment and welfare section of the identified Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad, Interview Board for the establishment of new employment and welfare sections at the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad and Special Task Force Meeting for Controlling the Illegal Fisheries problems. The Consular Division attended three Consular Mobile Services, organized by the Ministry of Labour & Foreign Employment and Ministry of Justice.

## **2.6.2 General Administration Division**

The General Administration Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for a broad area of administrative policy planning and implementation, all operational and maintenance affairs, human resource planning and development of Officers in All-island Services, Development Officers, and Management Service Officers, Primary Services, and Departmental services except the Sri Lanka Foreign Service. Similarly, preparation of Cabinet Memoranda, preparation of answers to Parliamentary questions, preparation of answers to Parliamentary Committees and Consultative committees are done by the Division.

A summary of special tasks performed by the General Administration Division (GAD) in addition to the routine duties for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022 are as follows:

**Human Resource Management:** Amendments to the Scheme of Recruitment for the post of Legal Advisor were sent to Public Service Commission. In order to create a clear and proper career path for the Associated service Officers of the MN 4 category, a promotional scheme was drafted and was submitted to Public Service Commission for approval. In terms of strengthening the human resources of the Ministry, series of training programs were organized to enhance employee performance and boost employee productivity in the areas of Establishment procedures, PSC Procedural Rules, Information Technology, Second Language trainings as per service requirements. Training on Serving Etiquette was conducted in order to enhance the quality of the service delivered by the staff of the Office Employment Service.

**Developments in Information Technology:** Expansion of Electronic Document Attestation system counters to accommodate more customers who require document attestation from the Consular Division. Streamlined the general public gathering in the Consular Affairs Division by introducing a convenient appointment system through partnering with SLT Mobitel. Asset Management Module was developed to record the Ministry's asset transactions digitally. Transactions are being added to the asset management system. IT Division continued to extend technical support for high-level Bilateral, Multilateral Virtual / Hybrid Meetings and successfully provided technical support for more than 300 Virtual meetings held in the Ministry from January to December 2022.

**Parliamentary Affairs:** Submission of 32 Cabinet Papers were efficiently coordinated with the Cabinet Office, in addition to the submission of Observations of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in respect of numerous Cabinet Memoranda. Coordination of submitting answers to the Parliamentary questions, reports to the Ministerial Consultative Committee and the Committee on Public Petitions.

**Procurement and Maintenance:** Performed all the procurement activities in accordance with the applicable regulations, whereby a total volume of procurement worth of LKR 9.4 million were made for requirements in Sri Lankan Missions, while another LKR 99.27 million was incurred for purchase for local necessities by 31 December 2022. Regular and proper maintenance of the Republic Building was continued while preserving its archaeological value and elegance. Cost of maintenance of Republic Building was amounting LKR 2.7 million for the year 2022. In addition, 27 Official quarters were maintained including relevant repairs at a total cost of LKR 1.9 million in the year 2022. Three Divisions were relocated at the Office space of the former Cabinet Office assigned to this Ministry. A sum of LKR 7 million of expenses were borne for refurbishment of said Office space.

**Logistics Services:** A component has been developed under Asset Management System (AMS) to maintain vehicle records and vehicle related maintenance. A fleet of 77 vehicles was efficiently utilized, with a comparable number of drivers. Considering the public financial constraints, the Ministry has taken appropriate measures to pursue the existing vehicle fleet with adequate investments for run-time maintenance, without causing extra burden for purchasing new vehicles.

**Priority areas based on the Action Plan-2022:** Introduction of a Common Website Platform for Missions/ Posts Abroad-Currently migrating the domain name registered under different commercial domains into gov.lk standard domain. Seven Missions are already migrated to gov.lk domain and other Mission / Posts are currently under progress. The framework development will be initiated in January 2023. Enhancement of the capacity of applying IT knowledge in operational work-Conducted IT awareness session to Ministry employees focusing on Cyber Security and Best Practices in using IT in office setup. Introduction of an Asset Management System-The development of the Asset Management System is completed. Pilot run is completed and currently enrolling the data to the system. Introduction of a Document Management System: The IT unit currently is analyzing the scope of the Document Management System to be developed for the Ministry. Infrastructure procurement for the development was completed and System development is in progress. Expected to complete within first quarter of 2023. Relocation of the Ministry: Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers was obtained for the relocation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in one building on 6 September 2021 and necessary actions are being taken to implement the said Cabinet approval.

### **2.6.3 Human Resources and Mission Management Division**

The main responsibility of the Human Resources and Mission Management (HR & MM) Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to ensure the provision of adequate human resource facilities required by the Sri Lanka Diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad, in a timely manner. Further, the HR & MM Division provides necessary policy directives to the Sri Lanka diplomatic Missions abroad on managing their human resources requirements and related administrative functions. During the period under review, the HR & MM Division maintained its regular interactions with sixty (60) Sri Lanka diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad. Further, the HR & MM Division attended all matters related to the home-based and local staff attached to the Sri Lanka Diplomatic Missions/Post which were temporally closed down, as per the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers.

**Appointment of New Heads of Mission/ Post:** The HR & MM Division attended formalities related to the appointments of fourteen (14) Heads of Mission/Post for Italy, Malaysia, South Africa, Myanmar, Maldives, South Korea, Oman, Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), Toronto (Canada), Melbourne (Australia), Guangzhou (China), Tokyo, Ankara and Melbourne. Further, necessary initiatives were taken to appoint eighteen (18) new Heads of Mission/Post for Australia, Bahrain, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Turkey, Viet Nam along with the Head of Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland and the Consul Generals in Milan, Italy and Melbourne, Australia. The Division also attended to related formalities of the conclusion of tours of duties of eighteen (18) Heads of Mission/Post.

**Transfers, Promotion and Retirement of Foreign Service Officers:** A total of forty-Nine (49) officers from the Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS) were transferred out to the selected Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad for diplomatic appointments and six (6) SLFS officers transferred from the Missions abroad upon completion of their tour of duties. The HR & MM Division also processed necessary procedural elements related to the promotion of fourteen (14) officers of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS) to the next grade in coordination/approval with/from the Public Service Commission (PSC). Further, necessary formalities related to the retirement processes of four (4) SLFS officers were attended by the HR & MM Division in coordination with relevant authorities including the Department of Pensions. With the view to institutionalize the Special Grade provisions of the SLFS Minute 2016, the HR & MM Division constructively engaged, initiated and coordinated matters related to holding of the interview for the promotion of SLFS Grade-I officers to the Special Grade of the SLFS. The first interview was held on 1 July 2022. The recommendations of the Interview Board were submitted to the PSC, for consideration and final approval/promotion.

**Technical & Administrative Staff:** The HR & MM Division took an initiative to address the appeals made by members of the Management Service Officers (MSO) in the Ministry who had previously worked in Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad requesting permission for them to sit for the upcoming “open competitive examination for

the selection of suitable candidates for the filling vacancies in the Management Service Officers (MSO) cadre 2020(2022) in Sri Lanka Missions abroad”. Similarly, appeals made by the Personal Assistants (Pas) in the Ministry who had previously served in the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad were also facilitated with the view to providing them with an opportunity to sit for the upcoming “open competitive examination for filling vacancies in the Personal Assistant cadre in the Sri Lanka Missions abroad”. The HR & MM Division processed and facilitated a total number of forty-five (45) applications for refund of the Public Service Provident Fund (PSPF) received from the employees who had completed their tenures of service at the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad.

**Controlling of Public Expenditure:** The HR & MM Division also took part at various initiatives of the Ministry which were introduced to manage the affairs of Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad by curtailing the expenditure and limiting the staff allocated to each Mission/Post while reviewing the approved cadre provisions of each Mission/Post. Further, as a part of controlling public expenditure, the tenures of service of thirty-two (32) home-based Management Service Officers (MSOs) were concluded without replacements. Action was also taken to conclude the tenures of service of thirteen (13) Personal Assistants (PAs) and other three (3) non-diplomatic officers who were attached to Sri Lanka Missions/Posts, upon the completion of their tour of duties, without replacements.

**Reporting and Monitoring Obligations:** Preparation of reports on the matters related to staffing in Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad, and payment of allowances together with any clarification related to expenditure procedures etc. of the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad were done by the Division in an efficient manner. The Division also responded to the queries from the Presidential Secretariat, Auditor General, Secretary General of the Parliament, the Hon. Attorney General and the Presidential Commissions, etc. with respect to the Mission staff and the management of overseas allowances that come under the purview of the HR & MM Division. Matters related to Right to Information (RTI) queries, Parliamentary questions, and complaints against diplomatic and non-diplomatic officers attached to Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad were coordinated with relevant authorities and Heads of Mission/Post, in a timely and confidential manner.

All relevant matters and ongoing activities which come under the purview of the HR & MM Division were carried out as per the directives of the Foreign Secretary in line with the established regulations/procedures and with the consent/observations/recommendations from relevant authorities/Divisions in order to ensure expected productivity of the Division. Progress of implementation of matters coming under the HR & MM Division were evaluated on a regular basis by each supervising officer with the view to ensure effective human resource management of the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad.

**Confronted Challenges:** While other public sector officers performed their duties remotely from home on rotational basis during the peak of outbreak of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka in accordance with the Public Administration Circulars on “Restricting the ceiling of Officers to Government Officers”, the officers attached to the HR & MM Division used to attend physically their duties at the Ministry in order to ensure smooth functioning of the Human Resources related functions of the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad.

Domestic/International Travels by Heads of Missions: During the period under review, twenty one (21) official visits by Heads of Mission/Post have been facilitated with necessary approval.

#### **2.6.4 Internal Audit & Investigation Division**

The key responsibility of the Division includes monitoring and evaluating the internal control mechanism of the Ministry, Sri Lanka Missions / Posts abroad and other institutions coming under the purview of the Ministry and provide the strategic apex with guidance on overall performance and compliance.

- i. The Division has raised 9 audit queries for the Ministry, other institutions coming under purview of the ministry and Missions / Posts abroad.
- ii. Follow up actions were taken in respect of the matters discussed at the COPA meeting held on 6 March 2019 in coordination with the respective Divisions and parties.

- iii. Actions were taken to conduct the Audit and Management Committee Meetings and follow up actions were taken for its decisions.
- iv. Coordination for compilation of replies to the 18 General Audit Queries out of 21.
- v. Represented the Ministry and provided information for two high court cases related to the Sri Lanka Embassy in Rome.

### 2.6.5 Legal Division

The main function of the Legal Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to furnish legal advice on matters of International Law to the Minister through the Ministry's Secretary, to other Divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the Sri Lanka Missions abroad, to the Foreign Missions in Sri Lanka as well as to other Ministries/ Departments. The Legal Division is also the Treaty depository of the Government of Sri Lanka. The Legal Division provides advice on legal aspects of all policy decisions and particularly international issues arising from time to time, such as territorial claims and boundaries, terrorism-related issues, recognition of treaty relations, diplomatic immunities and privileges, sanctions regime of UN and also on unilateral sanctions etc. Officers of the Legal Division also represent the Ministry in different expert Committees. During the time frame of 1 January to 31 December 2022, the Legal Division has provided legal observations/ Legal Clearance for 280 MoUs/Agreements in terms of Circular No: PS/SP/SB/ Circular/06/2019 issued by the Presidential Secretariat approximately. Apart from the above, the Legal Division has achieved the following significant key performances.

**Law of the Sea:** The work of the National Oceanic Affairs Committee (NOAC) is coordinated by the Legal Division. The Sub-Commission appointed by the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf of Sri Lanka (UNCLCS) has provisionally accepted Sri Lanka's claim by accepting that Sri Lanka has fulfilled the four criteria required to establish Sri Lanka's Continental Margin subject to finalizing the outer limits of the Continental Shelf. Arguments against the applicability of 350M (Nautical Miles) constraint to Sri Lanka were developed with the Committee for negotiations with the UN Sub Commission held from 25 October to 2 November 2022.

**Bilateral Discussion on the Free Trade Agreements (FTA):** Legal Division represents in the Investment Legal Working Groups established to negotiate FTAs and following contributions have been made:

Engaged with the National Trade Negotiating Committee with regard to setting the way forward in initiating discussions on the following:

- i. FTA with China;
- ii. Preferential Trade Agreement with Thailand;
- iii. Review of the Singapore FTA; and
- iv. Observations were provided to the text of the FTA with Thailand prior to negotiations held in January 2023.

**Bilateral Investment Treaties (IPPAs):** Legal Division is the focal point for negotiations of IPPAs.

Turkey - IPPA initialed with Turkey was amended in line with the New BIT model of Sri Lanka for AG's review. UAE- Engaging with the UAE and AG to finalize the text of the Agreement. Inter-Governmental Negotiations on the proposed Internationally Legally Binding Instrument on Marine Bio-Diversity beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). The Legal Division represented at the 3rd Inter Government Negotiations and secured the interest of Sri Lanka in this on the thematic areas being discussed.

**Immunities and Privileges:** Attended Inter-Ministerial meetings held to discuss issues pertaining to conclusion of the Host Country Agreement with Green Climate Fund (GCF). Provided final clearance for Host Country Agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to accede and deposit the instrument of accession. Host Country Agreement between the GoSL and the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) was finalized and was signed on 14 September 2022. The Legal Division is in the process of gazetting

immunities and privileges granted for the relevant ICRAF representatives in line with the said agreement. Legal Division has provided observations relating to matters of immunities and privileges for the Embassies of Brazil, USA, Japan, Switzerland, Indonesia, UNDP office and SACEP.

**The Trafficking in Persons (TIP):** The Legal Division is the Ministry focal point for the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF). Report of the US Department of State has upgraded Sri Lanka to Tier 2, from the tier 2 watch List in this Year. The Legal Division is presently involved in the National Risk Assessment of Sri Lanka conducted by the Financial Intelligent Unit (FIU) and it is at the final stage. Legal Division is working with the FIU to get ready for the next APG Evaluation in 2025.

**Readmission:** Negotiations on EU Readmission Protocols were finalized with Italy, France and the Netherlands on behalf of the Benelux and the Protocols could be finalized for signature. Presently this Division is liaising with the Netherlands to finalize the Protocol for printing in order to be signed on a date convenient for both parties.

**Agreements on Avoidance of Double Taxation:** Actively participated in negotiating Agreements on Avoidance of Double Taxation with Czech Republic, Iraq, Hungary, Denmark, Malta, India (Protocol), Pakistan (Protocol), Maldives, Austria, Romania, Egypt, Iran, Azerbaijan, Macedonia and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to avoid double taxation and to prevent fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.

**International Humanitarian Law Matters:** Head of Legal Division is the Chair of the National IHL Committee. The IHL Committee was reconstituted after the COVID-19 pandemic and the following two workshops were held to disseminate IHL among relevant stakeholder co-sponsored by Foreign Ministry and the ICRC:

- i. Workshop on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Humanitarian Diplomacy organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI);
- ii. IHL retreat: a platform to brainstorm national implementation of International Humanitarian Law, organized by the National IHL Committee and the ICRC, held from 1-2 December 2022; and
- iii. Legal Division participated as a Panelist at the Regional IHL Conference for South Asia on the theme “Bringing IHL Home” held from 30th October to 2nd November 2022 in Kathmandu.
- iv. Coordinating with the Department of Official Languages and the Legal Draftsman’s Department to get Geneva Conventions translated into national languages.

**Court Cases:** Provided observations and liaised with the AG’s Department on 44 FR and CA Applications made either against the Minister or Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

**Air Services Agreements:** Representatives of the Legal Division are members of the Bilateral Air Services Negotiation Team. Air Services Agreement with the Netherlands has been finalized and ready for signature. Protocol to the Air Services Agreement with Israel signed in 2003 with was finalized and ready for signature. Worked on Certain Search and Rescue MoUs including the Renewal of MoU between the National Search and Rescue Agency of Indonesia and Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka on Search and Rescue Cooperation and finalization of the Agreement on co-operation on Aeronautical Search and Rescue Services with India. Based on the request of the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka, Legal Division has taken action to Designate Fits Air to operate passenger and cargo services to Kuwait, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore under Air Services Agreements signed with Sri Lanka.

**BIMSTEC:** The Legal Division cleared the BIMSTEC Charter, BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Memorandum of Association for the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility and the BIMSTEC MoU on Mutual Cooperation in the field of Diplomatic Training which were signed on 30 March 2022. Participated at the Second Meeting of BISTEC Working

Group and assisted to finalize the Draft Agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation. Provided observations on the Rules Procedure for core BIMSTEC Mechanisms, Sectoral BIMSTEC Mechanisms and the External Relations/others received from the BIMSTEC Secretariat. Attended the Special Meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (S-BPWC) held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 21-22 December 2022 and the Meeting finalized the following documents of the BIMSTEC:

- i. Rules of Procedure for core BIMSTEC Mechanisms;
- ii. Rules of Procedure for Sectoral BIMSTEC Mechanisms;
- iii. Rules of Procedure of BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission; and
- iv. Rules of Procedure for Eminent Persons' Group on the Future Directions of BIMSTEC.

**Proposed Counter Terrorism (CTA) Legislations of Sri Lanka:** Legal Division represented in the Committee appointed to develop above legislation and has provided observations to the draft text.

**Issuance of Instruments of Full Powers:** Twenty-Four (24) Instruments of Full Powers have been prepared by the Legal Division for the Signature of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**Cabinet Observations:** Fifty-Nine (59) Cabinet observations of the Minister of Foreign Affairs were prepared by the Legal Division during the period of consideration.

**Foreign Summons:** Legal Division has facilitated for onward transmission of 337 foreign summons liaising with the Ministry of Justice. The Legal Division has facilitated to obtain testimony through Audio Visual linkage in terms of assistance to a Protection of victims of Crime and Witness Act no. 4 of 2015 as amended by Act No. 27 of 2017 for four cases in Iran, France, Kingdom of Netherlands and Australia.

**Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition and Transfer of Offenders requests:** 34 Mutual Legal Assistance requests, 16 Extradition requests and 10 Transfer of Offenders requests have been facilitated during the period of 1 January – 31 December 2022.

**Signed Agreements and MoUs:** 27 Agreements/MoUs were signed and deposited in the Treaty Depository of the Legal Division from 1 January to 31 December 2022. Budapest Convention: Sri Lanka has signed the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention), aimed at enhancing co-operation and disclosure of electronic evidence on 30 November 2022.

**Providing Legal advices/observations:** Legal Division involved in the finalization of the Circular issued by the Presidential Secretariat on Interactions by Government Ministries/Institutions with Foreign States, International Organizations, and Diplomatic Missions accredited to Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan Missions abroad. More than 230 Legal opinions advices have been provided to the Foreign Secretary, to other Divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the Sri Lanka Missions abroad, to the Foreign Missions in Sri Lanka as well as to other Ministries/Departments. During the period up to the 31 December 2022, Legal Division has cleared approximately 625 Agreements/MoUs and has provided around 125 advices on diverse fields.

The Officers of the Legal Division represented the following Cabinet appointed Committees and other Committees:

- i. Committee on developing Comprehensive Counterterrorism Legislation.
- ii. The National Ocean Affairs Committee. (NOAC)
- iii. Provided policy and legal inputs for the Legal Committee on Strategic Trade Control (STC) and on the process of finalizing the draft laws on STC.
- iv. The Financial Intelligence Unit, National Coordinating Committee and carry out all Ministry work related to Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

- v. The National Risk Assessment Committee conducted by the Financial Intelligence Unit which is a requirement for the APG mutual evaluation.
- vi. Committee to the Amendment to the Fisheries and Aquatic resources Act No. 2 of 1996.

Requests of Right to Information: 34 RTI requests were received under the RTI Act No. 12 of 2016 during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022. Out of the said 34 requests, 30 requests have been facilitated.

## 2.6.6 Overseas Asset Management and Development (OAM & D) Division

**Digitalization of the document Management System:** This Division has initiated to introduce the digitalization of Document Management System with the support of the IT Division of the Ministry. Accordingly, a server has been purchased in the financial year of 2022 with the support of Administration and Finance Division of this Ministry. The process of the development of the document Management system is in progress and will be expected to complete by end of January 2023. The Division is expected to do the testing and online application in the second week of February 2023.

Digitalization of Assets Management System, networking the Ministry with the overseas Missions/posts abroad: The Division is following up with the IT Division of this Ministry the progress towards the implementing of the system. The data feeding is going on and it will be expected to complete by the first week of February 2023. The Deputy High Commission in Chennai has been selected by the Committee to implement the system as a pilot project, and it will be implemented in the second week of February 2023.

**Progress on settling of long pending audit queries:** The Committee has been appointed by the S/FA to clear losses, waivers and write off indicated in the Final Account of the Ministry - 2021. 12 cases had been written off out of 21 cases. Two cases had been removed from the Final Account out of 21 cases. Further time period is needed to solve 7 cases. Out of 7 cases, 6 cases could be settled by end of January.

**Committee to provide suggestions/recommendations to the Foreign Secretary on abandoned GOSL owned properties:** The Committee completed the Report (except for the property in the SLEMB/Stockholm)

**Progress on the Committee to provide suggestions on curtailing Missions' Expenditure:** The final report will be submitted in January 2023.

## 2.6.7 Protocol Division

The work of the Protocol Division can be categorized as coordinating ceremonial functions, facilitating and monitoring diplomatic immunities and privileges extended to foreign Diplomatic Representations, UN and its specialized agencies and international organizations accredited to Sri Lanka, facilitating arrangements for Heads of Mission accredited to Sri Lanka (Based in Colombo and concurrent accreditations from other Missions.) and facilitating logistical and protocol arrangements for international conferences held in Sri Lanka.

**Immunities and Privileges: Issuance of clearance certificates-** 970 certificates were issued to Foreign Missions (19 Books containing 50 certificates) and 400 certificates were issued to International Organizations (8 Books containing 50 certificates)

**Customs Facilities – Imports:** (1730-for Foreign Missions and 380 for other International Organizations) Customs facilities – Exports: (148-for Foreign Missions and 27-for other international organizations)

**Vehicles (DPL / UN and other Organizations):** Sale of vehicles-292, Registration of vehicles-94, Issuance of revenue licenses-740, Issuance of Driving licenses-187, Issuance of petrol coupon books-210.

**Visas:** Visas for Foreign Missions – 922, Visas for Foreign Missions – Residence visas-1200, Visa for International Organizations – 174 entry visas and 220 residence visas, Short term visas-42.

**Airport Passes:** 98 permanent passes and 45 temporary passes, 138 renewals of permanent passes and 30 renewals of temporary passes.

**VIP lounge Permits:** 5155 Foreign Passengers and 3645 local passengers.

**Diplomatic Clearances:** 111 approvals for Foreign Aircrafts (Military & State-owned), 33 approvals for Foreign Ships (Military & research), 17 military exercises and 9 weapon clearances.

**Identity Cards (DPL / UN and other Organizations):** 793 Airport passes, 316 National day felicitation messages and 16 National day receptions.

**Appointments of Heads of Mission/Honorary Consuls:** The Protocol Division is responsible for arranging ceremonies for presentation of credentials for foreign Ambassadors/High Commissioners accredited to Sri Lanka and seeking Agreement for Sri Lankan Ambassadors/ High Commissioners appointed to countries that Sri Lanka has established resident Missions. The Protocol Division is also responsible for appointments of Honorary Consuls of Sri Lanka and appointments of Honorary Consuls of other countries in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, 5 credential ceremonies, 30 appointments of Foreign Heads of Mission to Sri Lanka, 24 appointments of Sri Lankan Heads of Mission to abroad were facilitated by this Division, during the reporting period. 21 appointments of Honorary Consuls of Sri Lanka and 33 extensions of the tenures of service were facilitated in addition to the 3 terminations and 4 appointments of the Honorary Consuls in Sri Lanka.

### **2.6.8 Emergency Response Unit**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs established a COVID-19 Focal Point in March 2020 to facilitate all COVID-19 related matters such as repatriation of Sri Lankans abroad, coordination and clearance of medical equipment and purchasing and donation of vaccines, etc.

Due to the economic crisis of the country, COVID-19 Focal Point Unit also worked as the Emergency Response Unit of this Ministry and played a vital role in assisting and coordinating with respective parties to address the shortage of Medicines, Medical Equipment, Essential Food items and other Emergency Supplies.

This Unit coordinated and facilitated (this includes obtaining NMRA clearance and other necessary approvals, requesting Sri Lankan Airlines to transport free of charge and port clearance and handover) a total of 122 consignments of medicines, medical equipment, essential food items and other emergency supplies received from Sri Lankans living abroad, foreign governments, non - governmental organizations and well-wishers to fulfill the country's need through the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad.

In this context, Sri Lanka received essential drugs for ICU, cancer patients and other life-saving drugs (Medicines) such as Anastrozole, Azithromycin, Epilex, Fluconazole, Fludrocortisone, Itraconazole, Lenolindomide, Levetireacetam, Pantoprazole, Temozolomide, Tab Folinic acid and etc. and Medical Equipment such as Ventilators, Syringes, ET Tubes, RAT Kits, Blood Bags, Chemical Disinfectants, Surgical Consumables, and other Pharmaceutical Items with the value of over USD 41 million, 1340 MTs of rice and over 100 Kgs of other essential food items and 1.25 MTs of School Supplies in the coordination with this Unit.

During the reporting period, Sri Lanka also received a sum of USD 517, 302 as financial donations through the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad. The Unit through the Sri Lankan Missions/Posts abroad and the Foreign Missions based in Colombo, facilitated donations of COVID - 19 vaccines.

This Unit coordinated with foreign governments on matters relating to entry requirements for Sri Lankans, removal of travel restrictions and mutual recognition of Vaccine Certificates. Sri Lanka recognized COVID - 19 vaccine certificates of 92 countries.

The Unit also with the assistance of Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad prepared a comprehensive information guide on COVID-19 vaccines required for overseas travel by Sri Lankans and updated the relevant line Ministries and other government agencies, on regular basis.

## 2.7. Significant Events – 2022



President Ranil Wickremesinghe participates in the CoP-27 in Egypt



A Senior Japanese Parliamentarian on a Fact-Finding Mission to assist Sri Lanka



Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry, at the General Debate of the 77th Session of the UNGA on 24 September 2022 – New York



High-level Dignitaries from the Member States attend the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held in Colombo on 20 March 2022



Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry at the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council



The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) of Sri Lanka for the period of 2023-2027



Foreign Secretary Aruni Wijewardane delivers Keynote Address at High-Level Segment of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBTO) 3<sup>rd</sup> Science Diplomacy Symposium, Vienna



Foreign Secretary Aruni Wijewardane delivers Keynote Address at High-Level Segment of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBTO) 3<sup>rd</sup> Science Diplomacy Symposium, Vienna



Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry's Meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken



Foreign Minister's Meeting with the Administrator of USAID Samantha Power



High-level Business delegation of Sri Lankan Heritage from Canada visits Sri Lanka



Japan-Sri Lanka Third Policy Dialogue Meeting held on 15 July 2022

## CHAPTER-3: Financial Performance

### 3.1 Statement of Financial Performance

#### Statement of Financial Performance for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

				(Rs.)	
Budget 2022 Rs.	Note	2022 Rs.	Actual	2021 Rs.	
	<b>Revenue Receipts</b>				
-	Income Tax			-	} ACA-1
-	Taxes on Domestic Goods & Services			-	
-	Taxes on International Trade			-	
-	Non Tax Revenue & Others			-	
-	<b>Total Revenue Receipts (A)</b>			-	
	<b>Non Revenue Receipts</b>				
	Treasury Imprests	11,508,887,742		9,369,712,663	ACA-3
	Deposits	2,104,922,230		2,076,010,925	ACA-4
30,400,000	Advance Accounts	61,860,671		51,762,773	ACA-5
	Other Main Ledger Receipts			-	
<b>30,400,000</b>	<b>Total Non Revenue Receipts (B)</b>	<b>13,675,670,643</b>		<b>11,497,486,361</b>	
<b>30,400,000</b>	<b>Total Revenue Receipts &amp; Non Revenue Receipts C = (A)+(B)</b>	<b>13,675,670,643</b>		<b>11,497,486,361</b>	
	Remittance to the Treasury (D)	339,634,673		180,000,476	
<b>30,400,000</b>	<b>Net Revenue Receipts &amp; Non Revenue Receipts E = (C)-(D)</b>	<b>13,336,035,970</b>		<b>11,317,485,885</b>	
	<b>Less: Expenditure</b>				
	<b>Recurrent Expenditure</b>				
10,898,730,000	Wages, Salaries & Other Employment Benefits	9,030,773,672		6,803,407,447	} ACA-2(ii)
5,531,850,500	Other Goods & Services	4,834,536,272		3,907,979,711	
808,910,500	Subsidies, Grants and Transfers	730,970,638		470,003,154	
-	Interest Payments	-		-	
140,120,000	Other Recurrent Expenditure	108,441,860		6,368,744	
<b>17,379,611,000</b>	<b>Total Recurrent Expenditure (F)</b>	<b>14,704,722,442</b>		<b>11,187,759,056</b>	
	<b>Capital Expenditure</b>				
360,572,000	Rehabilitation & Improvement of Capital Assets	49,030,997		120,744,787	} ACA-2(ii)
105,527,000	Acquisition of Capital Assets	42,215,696		63,415,740	
2,000,000	Capital Transfers	1,000,000		-	
-	Acquisition of Financial Assets	-		-	
2,300,000	Capacity Building	1,202,050		2,062,858	
10,000,000	Other Capital Expenditure	84,213		1,737,946	
<b>480,399,000</b>	<b>Total Capital Expenditure (G)</b>	<b>93,532,956</b>		<b>187,961,331</b>	
	Deposit Payments	1,978,580,402		2,050,025,630	ACA-4
36,000,000	Advance Payments	52,110,527		39,143,701	ACA-5
	Other Main Ledger Payments				
<b>36,000,000</b>	<b>Total Main Ledger Expenditure (H)</b>	<b>2,030,690,929</b>		<b>2,089,169,331</b>	
<b>17,896,010,000</b>	<b>Total Expenditure I = (F+G+H)</b>	<b>16,828,946,327</b>		<b>13,464,889,718</b>	
<b>(17,865,610,000)</b>	<b>Balance as at 31st December J = (E-I)</b>	<b>(3,492,910,357)</b>		<b>(2,067,403,833)</b>	
	Balance as per the Imprest Reconciliation Statement	(5,179,573,718)		(3,076,705,760)	ACA-7
	Imprest Balance as at 31st December	1,686,663,361		1,009,301,927	ACA-3
		<b>(3,492,910,357)</b>		<b>(2,067,403,833)</b>	

### 3.2 Statement of Financial Position

#### Statement of Financial Position As at 31<sup>st</sup> December- 2022

	Note	Actual	
		2022 Rs	2021 Rs
<b>Non Financial Assets</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	ACA-6	12,734,553,377	12,740,581,583
<b>Financial Assets</b>			
Advance Accounts	ACA-5/5(a)	101,349,648	111,099,792
Cash & Cash Equivalents	ACA-3	1,686,663,361	1,009,301,927
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>14,522,566,386</b>	<b>13,860,983,302</b>
<b>Net Assets / Equity</b>			
Net Worth to Treasury		(400,043,205)	(263,943,109)
Property, Plant & Equipment Reserve		12,734,553,377	12,740,581,583
Rent and Work Advance Reserve	ACA-5(b)		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Deposits Accounts	ACA-4	501,392,853	375,042,901
Unsettled Imprest Balance	ACA-3	1,686,663,361	1,009,301,927
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>14,522,566,386</b>	<b>13,860,983,302</b>

Detail Accounting Statements in ACA format Nos. 1 to 7 presented in pages from ...06.. to...113... and Annexures to accounts presented in pages from ...114.... to ...219.. form an integral part of these Financial Statements. The Financial Statements have been prepared in complying with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles whereas most appropriate Accounting Policies are used as disclosed in the Notes to the Financial Statements and hereby certify that figures in these Financial Statements, Notes to accounts and other relevant accounts were reconciled with the Treasury Books of Accounts and found in agreement. We hereby certify that an effective internal control system for the financial control exists in the Reporting Entity and carried out periodic reviews to monitor the effectiveness of internal control system for the financial control and accordingly make alterations as required for such systems to be effectively-carried out.

  
 Chief Accounting Officer  
 Name :  
 Designation : **Ms. Aruni Wijewardane**  
 Date : 27.02.2023  
 Secretary  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Colombo-01.

  
 Accounting Officer  
 Name :  
 Designation : **Ms. Anni Wijewardane**  
 Date : 27.02.2023  
 Secretary  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Colombo-01.

  
 Chief Financial Officer/ Chief Accountant/  
 Director (Finance)/ Commissioner (Finance)  
 Name :  
 Date : 27.02.2023  
**P. D. L. Kularathna**  
 Chief Financial Officer  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Colombo 1.

### 3.3 Statement of Cash Flow

#### Statement of Cash Flows for the Period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

	Actual	
	2022 Rs.	2021 Rs.
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Total Tax Receipts	-	-
Fees, Fines, Penalties and Licenses	-	-
Profit	-	-
Non Revenue Receipts	-	-
Revenue Collected on behalf of Other Revenue Heads	5,300,032,911	3,221,067,854
Imprest Received	10,499,585,815	9,278,182,565
Recoveries from Advance	69,985,852	56,789,023
Deposit Received	2,104,196,970	2,076,010,925
<b>Total Cash generated from Operations (A)</b>	<b>17,973,801,548</b>	<b>14,632,050,367</b>
<b>Less - Cash disbursed for:</b>		
Personal Emoluments & Operating Payments	13,947,288,855	10,837,484,562
Subsidies & Transfer Payments	730,970,638	470,003,154
Expenditure incurred on behalf of Other Heads	208,262,003	149,014,309
Imprest Settlement to Treasury	339,634,673	100,000,476
Advance Payments	58,604,194	44,334,666
Deposit Payments	1,978,566,577	2,050,025,630
<b>Total Cash disbursed for Operations (B)</b>	<b>17,263,326,940</b>	<b>13,650,862,797</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES (C) = (A) - (B)</b>	<b>710,474,608</b>	<b>981,187,570</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Interest	-	-
Dividends	-	-
Divestiture Proceeds & Sale of Physical Assets	9,102,522	-
Recoveries from On Lending	-	-
<b>Total Cash generated from Investing Activities (D)</b>	<b>9,102,522</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Less - Cash disbursed for:</b>		
Purchase or Construction of Physical Assets & Acquisition of Other Investment	42,215,696	63,415,742
<b>Total Cash disbursed for Investing Activities (E)</b>	<b>42,215,696</b>	<b>63,415,742</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES (F) = (D) - (E)</b>	<b>(33,113,174)</b>	<b>(63,415,742)</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING &amp; INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES (G) = (C) + (F)</b>	<b>677,361,434</b>	<b>917,771,828</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>		
Local Borrowings	-	-
Foreign Borrowings	-	-
Grants Received	-	-
<b>Total Cash generated from Financing Activities (H)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Less - Cash disbursed for:</b>		
Repayment of Local Borrowings	-	-
Repayment of Foreign Borrowings	-	-
<b>Total Cash disbursed for Financing Activities (I)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES (J) = (H) - (I)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Movement in Cash (K) = (G) + (J)</b>	<b>677,361,434</b>	<b>917,771,828</b>
<b>Opening Cash Balance as at 01<sup>st</sup> January 2022</b>	<b>1,009,301,927</b>	<b>91,530,099</b>
<b>Closing Cash Balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022</b>	<b>1,686,663,361</b>	<b>1,009,301,927</b>

## Basis of Reporting

1) **Reporting Period**

The reporting period for these Financial Statements is from 01st January to 31st December 2022.

2) **Basis of Measurement**

The Financial Statements have been prepared on historical cost modified by the revaluation of certain assets and accounted on a modified cash basis, unless otherwise specified.

The figures of the Financial Statements are presented in Sri Lankan rupees rounded to the nearest rupee.

3) **Recognition of Revenue**

Exchange and non exchange revenues are recognised on the cash receipts during the accounting period irrespective of relevant revenue period.

4) **Recognition and Measurement of Property, Plant and Equipment (PP&E)**

An item of Property, Plant and Equipment is recognized when it is probable that future economic benefit associated with the assets will flow to the entity and the cost of the assets can be reliably measured.

PP&E are measured at a cost and revaluation model is applied when cost model is not applicable.

5) **Property, Plant and Equipment Reserve**

This reserve account is the corresponding account of Property Plant and Equipment.

6) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash & cash equivalents include local currency notes and coins in hand as at 31st December 2022.

- \* In cases where there are transactions which are specific to a particular reporting entity, relevant information can be entered in to the Financial Statements with approval of Department of State Accounts and the disclosure required for those specific transactions may be included under "Reporting Basis".
- \* Only the accounting policies relevant to the reporting entity should be disclosed under the reporting basis.

### 3.4 Performance of the Revenue Collection

Revenue Code	Description of the Revenue Code	Revenue Estimate		Collected Revenue (As at 31 Dec. 2022)	
		Original	Final	Amount (LKR)	As a % of Final Revenue Estimate
2002-01-01	Rent on Government Building & Housing	2,900	3,000	2,834	94%
2002-09-99	Other Interest	5,000	7,500	13,711	183%
2003-02-07	Fees of Passports, Visas & Dual Citizenship	2,800,000	3,150,000	3,376,584	107%
2003-02-13	Examinations & Other fees	35	15	-	0%
2003-02-14	Dept. of Motor Traffic	25,000	29,000	29,108	100%
2003-02-99	Consular Fees	600,000	1,000,000	1,284,204	128%
2003-99-00	Other Receipts	150,000	210,000	558,595	266%
2004-01-00	Social Security Contributions – (Central Government)	30,000	38,000	34,343	90%
2004-02-00	Social Security Contributions – (Provincial Councils)	550	700	654	93%
2006-02-01	Sale of Capital Assets (Vehicles)	6,000	6,000	5,839	97%
2006-02-02	Sale of Capital Assets (Other)	200	200	3,263	1631%
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,619,685</b>	<b>4,444,415</b>	<b>5,309,135</b>	

### 3.5 Performance of the Utilization of Allocation

Type of allocation	Allocation 2022		Actual Expenditure (As at 31 Dec. 2022)	Allocation Utilization as a % of Final Allocation (As at 31 Dec. 2022)
	Original	Final		
Recurrent	17,393,010	17,379,611	14,704,722	85%
Capital	467,000	480,399	93,533	19%
Total	17,860,010	17,860,010	17,798,255	

### 3.6 In terms of F.R 208 grant of allocations for expenditure to the Ministry

LKR 000'						
Serial No (Head No)	Allocation Received from Which Ministry/ Department	Purpose of Allocation	Allocation		Actual Expenditure	Allocation Utilization as a% of Final Allocation
			Original	Final Allocation		
001	President Office	VVIP Visits	62,178	62,178	59,020	95%
002	Prime Minister's Office	Allocation for VVIP Visits	2,918	2,918	2,904	100%
101	Ministry of Buddhasasana	Expenses for Religious activities	5,988	5,988	5,917	99%
102	Ministry of Finance	Allocation for VVIP Visits	2,520	2,520	2,520	100%
103	Ministry of Defence	Expenses of Defense Attaché	1,116	1,116	1,116	100%
110	Ministry of Justice	Allocation for VVIP Visits	100	100	100	100%
126	Ministry of Education	Allowance to Cuban Undergraduate & Salary Payment of Coordinating Officer, UNESCO Contribution				
	115,485	115,485	115,431	100%		
222	Sri Lanka Army	Excess Baggages By Sea, Legal Fees & Repairing an Official Vehicle				
	16,450	16,450	16,272	99%		
224	Sri Lanka Air Force	Excess Baggage By Sea	930	930	782	84%
225	Department of Police	Annual Financial Contribution – INTERPOL General Secretariat and VVIP Vist				
	12,332	12,332	12,276	100%		
290	Department of Fisheries	Repatriation of Fisherman	476	476	476	100%
295	Department of Commerce	Trade Promotional Activities	4,890	4,890	4,287	88%

### 3.7 Performance of the Reporting of Non-Financial Assets

Asset Code	Code Description	Balance as per Board of Survey Report as at 31 Dec. 2021	Balance as per Financial Position Report as at 31 Dec. 2022	Yet to be accounted	Reporting progress as a %
9151	Building and Structure	-	10,059,336	-	100%
9152	Machinery and Equipment	-	1,580,961	-	100%
9153	Land	-	1,010,362	-	100%
9154	Intangible Assets	-	27,909	-	100%
9155	Biological Assets	-	-	-	-
9160	Work in Progress	-	55,985	-	100%
9180		-		-	

### 3.8 Overall Financial Performance for the year – 2022

Category	Estimated 2022	Actual 2022	Deficit/ Surplus	*Major reasons for variances
Revenue (if relevant)	4,444,415	5,309,135		Unexpected demand for the consular service and visa requests
Total Expenditure	17,860,010	14,798,255		
Recurrent	17,379,611	14,704,722		Expenditure was controlled on the directions of the Treasury.
Capital	480,399	93,533		Expected renovation work of the SLEMB/ Canberra and Stockholm was not carried out as per the directions given by the Treasury on the basis of economic challenges.

\* Major reasons for the significant variances between revenue and expenditure are briefly stated here.

## CHAPTER-4: KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### 4.1. Overall Achievement of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of the Ministry

The Summary of the output of the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) used by the Ministry based on the Action Plan-2022, for strengthening and enhancing the Sri Lanka's national Interests abroad through bilateral, regional and multilateral engagement is elaborated in this Chapter.

The duties and functions performed by the Ministry and the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad are mostly intangible in nature as most of the duties and functions are representational.

The performance of the Ministry in 2022, basically focused on the recovery of economy of Sri Lanka which has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent global crises. In this context, the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad extensively promoted Sri Lanka tourism, employment, trade and investment through their bilateral and multilateral engagements. The Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad performed their duties and functions with a due focus on the following priority areas:

- Economic Diplomacy (Bilateral/Multilateral)
- Political Diplomacy (Bilateral/Multilateral)
- Multilateral Diplomacy
- Cultural Diplomacy and people to people relations
- Defence & Security cooperation
- Public Diplomacy
- Consular Assistance, Migrant Labor Welfare and COVID-19 related activities
- Science Diplomacy
- Human Resources, Mission Management, Overseas Assets Management & Development
- Other

The overall performance of the Ministry through its KPIs based on the Action Plan-2022, is shown in the table-IV, below.

**Table-IV- Key Performance Indicators**

#	Priority focus areas/Key Performance Indicators	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
		100-70 %	70-40%	Below 40%
1.	Representation of Sri Lanka in the Multilateral Fora			
2.	Engagements with Regional Organizations			
3.	Number of high-level visits			
4.	Number of Bilateral Political Consultations/Joint Committees/ meetings/ discussions			
5.	Engagements with Overseas Sri Lankans			
6.	Actions on COVID-19 related activities			
7.	Cooperation under Health Diplomacy			
8.	Number of initiatives under Ministry's strategic communication approach			

#	Priority focus areas/Key Performance Indicators	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
		100-70	70-40	Below 40
9.	Number of Agreements and MoUs initiated/finalized			
	Engagements with Regional Organizations			
10.	Engagements with media (effectiveness of the public diplomacy to promote and safeguard Sri Lanka's national interests abroad)			
11.	Number of trade promotional events			
12.	Number of tourism promotional events			
13.	Number of export promotional events			
14.	Number of investment promotional events			
15.	Number of initiatives taken under Economic Diplomacy programme of the Ministry			
16.	Defence and security cooperation engagement			
17.	Number of cultural promotional events			
18.	Number of scholarship opportunities for Sri Lankans/ Engagements with foreign education authorities			
19.	Cooperation in science and technology sector			
20.	Number of initiatives taken under consular services and labour welfare			
21.	Number of initiatives taken under Human Resources, Mission Management, Overseas Asset Management & Development			

#### 4.2. Achievement of Key Performance Indicators: Divisions with Cross-cutting Areas

##### 4.2.1 Economic Affairs Division

Priority Area	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	100%-90%	89%-75%	74%-50%
Economic Diplomacy (Bilateral/Multilateral) Implemented and executed the Economic Diplomacy Programme: Promotion of exports Securing Foreign Direct Investments Promotion of Tourism Foreign Employment Promotions Active involvement in Trade Negotiation		85%	
Economic Diplomacy (Multilateral) Enhancing multilateral trade & economic cooperation No. of meeting held No. of communications, follow up actions taken No. of discussions by SL envoys	90%		
Economic Diplomacy (Technical Cooperation) Enhancing multilateral trade & economic cooperation No. of meeting held No. of communications, follow up actions taken No. of discussions by SL envoys		85%	

#### 4.2.2 International Security & Counter Terrorism Division

<b>International Security &amp; Counter Terrorism Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<b>LTTE related activities :</b> Retain listing of the LTTE as a terrorist organization in 32 countries. Action on cases related to LTTE members abroad. Report on the ongoing cases related to revamping activities.	95%		
<b>Support counter-terrorism efforts:</b> Develop a communications strategy to address the terrorist content and other messaging that promotes terrorist activities and violent extremism. Coordination of sharing information related to CT.		82%	
Facilitate coordination with foreign countries in CT matters. Support local law enforcement agencies in training, funding and technical needs.			
<b>Counter-terrorism legal framework</b> Support SL's contribution in CT at International level. Establish/develop regional coordination in CT efforts. Develop the formal framework on bilateral coordination re. CT and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)/ Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE). Support domestic efforts.		82%	
<b>Support countering violent extremism (CVE) efforts</b> Coordinate with bilateral partners and international organizations on projects related to PVE/CVE. Support the domestic inquiries.	95%		

#### 4.2.3 Ocean Affairs, Environment & Climate Change Division

Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Division			
Priority Area	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	100%-90%	89%-75%	74%-50%
<p><b>Create a specific focus on ocean Affairs, in Sri Lanka’s policy:</b>            Establishing a Maritime Disaster Preparedness Mechanism/ Authority in Sri Lanka in collaboration with Australia.            Stake holder meeting on Maritime Disaster Preparedness Mechanism</p> <p>Promote Sri Lanka’s Engagement with the International Seabed Authority (ISA)</p> <p>Stakeholder Meeting on engagements with International Seabed Authority (ISA)</p> <p>Sri Lanka’s participation at the 7th Our Ocean Conference (OOC), Palau, 13 -14 April 2022 and the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference – UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (Lisbon, 27 June – 1 July 2022):</p>		75%	
<p><b>Create a specific focus on Environment and Climate Change in Sri Lanka’s Policy:</b></p> <p>Collaborations on plastic litter, biodiversity and seafood industry with the Govt. of the UK under the Blue Planet Fund</p> <p>Collaborations with Max Planck Foundation and UNODC on maritime safety and Security (MSS) related activities</p> <p>Securing foreign assistance for Climate Change initiatives, maritime disaster preparedness</p> <p>Sri Lanka’s participation at the UNFCCC COP27 Egypt , 7-8 November 2022</p>		87%	
<p><b>Marine Scientific Research</b>            To obtain Cabinet approval for Marine Scientific Research (MSR) guidelines and regulations in order to implement a MSR Clearance process to enhance and promote maritime research in Sri Lanka</p>			50%

<b>Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<p><b>Promote Sri Lanka's role in International, regional and sub-regional organizations to strengthen the objectives of those organizations and pursue Sri Lanka's profile as a bridge builder, thereby enhancing dividends for the countries interests</b></p> <p>Meetings related to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA): 1st Meeting of the Coordinating Countries and IORA Functional Body Chairs</p> <p>Operationalizing the IORA Centre for Excellence on Ocean Science and Environment</p> <p>Coordination of initiatives on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) around SL with relevant line agencies (Fisheries &amp; Wildlife mainly)</p> <p>Declaration of and International Sea-Grass Day</p> <p>Stakeholder Meetings: Local Meetings related to Commonwealth Blue Charter</p> <p>Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index [CORVI] Rapid Assessment</p>	90%		

#### 4.2.4 Policy Planning, Research and Human Resource Development Division

<b>Policy Planning, Research &amp; Human Resource Development Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<p><b>Policy objectives (Policy and Research), priorities, targets and KPIs</b></p> <p>Number of communications had with Divisions/Missions.</p> <p>Timely preparation of Annual Action Plan</p> <p>Number of research papers developed.</p> <p>Number of webinars/ brown bags/ discussions organized</p>		75%	

<b>Policy Planning, Research &amp; Human Resource Development Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<b>Policy objectives (Policy and Research), priorities, targets and KPIs</b> Number of communications had with Divisions/Missions.  Timely preparation of Annual Action Plan  Number of research papers developed.  Number of webinars/ brown bags/ discussions organized		75%	
Policy objectives (Policy and Research), priorities, targets and KPIs Number of communications had with Divisions/Missions.  Timely preparation of Annual Action Plan  Number of research papers developed.  Number of webinars/ brown bags/ discussions organized.			
Performance evaluation and monitoring  Number of communications had with Divisions/Missions.  Timely Completion and submission of reports.			
Human Resource Development  Number of engagements with stakeholders to Discuss/organize/finalize Gazette notification to conduct open competitive examination to recruit new entrants to the SLFS  Arrangements made to conduct the open competitive examination			
<b>Amendment to SLFS Minute and discussion on the issues related to implementation of SLFS Minute and the new promotional scheme introduced for the all-island services</b>  Number of meetings held with stakeholder agencies.  Number of meetings convened with internal committee appointed on this matter.			50%

<b>Policy Planning, Research &amp; Human Resource Development Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<b>Training &amp; Development</b>			
Number of overseas trainings coordinated			
Number of SLFS officers attended Foreign Trainings		75%	
Number of Non-SLFS officers attended Foreign Trainings			
Number of overseas postgraduate scholarships coordinated			
Number of engagements with stakeholders to discuss/organize/finalize Gazette notification to conduct 1st & 2nd Efficiency Bar examination for the SLFS officers			
Number of Ambassadors/High Commissioners-designate attended trainings.			
Number of local training programs organized.			
Number of SLFS/Non-SLFS officers trained.			

#### 4.2.5 Public Diplomacy Division

<b>Public Diplomacy Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<b>Executing the tools of Public Diplomacy</b>			
Number of Press Releases and Social Media Posts	100%		
Number of press conferences conducted			
Number of foreign media personnel/teams facilitated			
Number of rebuttals issued			

#### 4.2.6 SAARC Division

<b>Public Diplomacy Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as per percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<p><b>Multilateral Diplomacy - Engagement with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitation of Sri Lankan Officials to attend SAARC related meetings (virtual/physical), capacity building programmes and other activities in the fields of Agriculture, Health, Energy, Culture in collaboration with the relevant line Ministries.</li> <li>- Coordination of obtaining concurrence for the draft MoUs/Agreements in collaboration with the relevant line Ministries.</li> <li>- Recruitment of Desk Officer from Sri Lanka for the SAARC Secretariat.</li> <li>- Dissemination of the information regarding the recruitment of professional staff for the SAARC Regional Centers &amp; SAARC Specialized Bodies.</li> <li>- Dissemination of the information with the relevant line agencies regarding the scholarships received from SAARC Regional Centers/SAARC Specialized Bodies.</li> <li>- Coordination with the Accounts Division of this Ministry and other Ministries, to make the annual Share Contribution of the SAARC Secretariat, SAARC Regional Centers and SAARC Specialized Bodies</li> </ul>	90%		

#### 4.2.7 United Nations & Human Rights Division

<b>United Nations and Human Rights Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<p><b>Human Rights</b></p> <p>Number of substantive interventions and contributions made at Human Rights Council(HRC) Sessions in March, June and September</p> <p>Number of meetings/events in which Sri Lanka's position was presented</p>	95%		

<b>United Nations and Human Rights Division (Contd.,)</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as per percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<p>Number of resolutions supported/ co-sponsored at the HRC sessions</p> <p>Submit Sri Lanka's periodic reports (CEDAW, CMW, ICESCR, ICCPR, ICED, CAT)</p> <p>Inward visits by Special Rapporteurs</p> <p>Number of follow-up activities carried out on UPR recommendations on Sri Lanka (MFA will coordinate this process)</p>			
<p><b>Humanitarian Affairs</b></p> <p>UNHCR -Number of interactions held and outcome</p> <p>ICRC - Number of interactions held and outcome</p>	95%		
<p><b>77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly</b></p> <p>Successful participation of Foreign Minister and delegation from SL at the High-Level Segment of the 77th UNGA in Sep. 2022.</p> <p>Number of interventions/statements delivered at the 77th Session</p> <p>Number of initiatives / resolutions supported by Sri Lanka at the 77th Session.</p>	100%		
<p><b>Sri Lanka at the other like-minded groupings</b></p> <p>NAM – Number of meetings coordinated</p> <p>Preparation of interventions</p> <p>Number of initiatives supported by Sri Lanka</p>	95%		
<p>G 77 - Number of meetings coordinated</p> <p>Preparation of interventions</p> <p>Number of initiatives supported by Sri Lanka</p>			
<p><b>Candidatures</b></p> <p>Number of candidatures of other countries supported by Sri Lanka contributing to deepen bilateral cooperation with the UN Member States</p> <p>Candidature database is updated</p> <p>Number of initiatives taken to promote SL's candidatures</p> <p>Number of reciprocal arrangements secured for Sri Lanka's candidatures</p>	95%		

<b>United Nations and Human Rights Division (Contd.,)</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as per percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<p><b>Peacekeeping</b></p> <p>Timely rotation of troops and delivery of supplies</p> <p>Number of engagements with the DPKO on bilateral matters related to PK deployments</p> <p>Number of engagements at the multilateral PK dialogues</p>			
<p><b>Facilitation of Sri Lanka's representation at International Fora</b></p> <p>Number of letters of credence processed and issued up to September 2022</p>	95%		
<p><b>Defense and Security Cooperation</b></p> <p><b>Disarmament &amp; Non-proliferation</b></p> <p>Number of Meetings where Sri Lanka was represented</p> <p>Number of interventions made</p> <p>Number of initiatives made by Sri Lanka</p> <p>Number of initiatives supported by Sri Lanka to strengthen bilateral engagement with other UN Member Countries (Co-sponsoring, voting)</p> <p>Number of Annual Reports submitted</p> <p>Number of consultations held with the relevant Mine Ban Committee and National Mine Action Center</p> <p>Number of follow-ups made on each legislation measure</p> <p>Number of contributions processed and paid</p>	100%		
<p>Number of recommendations made regarding accession to disarmament conventions</p> <p>Number of sponsorships secured for Sri Lankans</p>	95%		
<p><b>Health Diplomacy (multilateral)</b></p> <p>Number of meetings in which SL was represented through PRUN/ Geneva,</p> <p>Number of interventions made</p> <p>Number of positions/policies coordinated and sent instructions to Sri Lanka Missions</p> <p>Number of statements delivered</p> <p>Number of resolutions/joint initiatives co-sponsored/supported</p>	95%		

United Nations and Human Rights Division (Contd.,)			
Priority Area	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	100%-90%	89%-75%	74%-50%
<b>Cultural Diplomacy–UNESCO</b>  Numbers of events, initiatives and reports No of submissions coordinated No of nominations coordinated		80%	

### 4.3 Achievement of Key Performance Indicators: Territorial Divisions

#### 4.3.1 Africa Affairs Division

Africa Affairs Division			
Priority Area	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected out put		
	100%-90%	89%-75%	74%-50%
<b>Economic Diplomacy (Bilateral/ Multilateral)</b> <b>Enhancing bilateral trade &amp; economic co-operation with the countries in the African Region to gain maximum trade and economic benefits to Sri Lanka:</b>  No. of communications, follow up actions taken on trade, economic & investment related MoUs & Agreements  No of Policy analysis prepared in regard to Agreements/MoU  No. of discussions by SL envoys in African countries with their counterparts  No. of communications/follow up actions with line Agencies  No. of Joint Commissions /Joint Committees held in 2022		84%	
<b>Political Diplomacy (Bilateral/ Multilateral)</b> <b>Enhance Diplomatic engagements with all 55 states in Africa Region:</b>  No. of communications/actions/interactions regarding rationalization of concurrent accreditations  No of discussions by SL envoys in African countries with the envoys of African countries  Selection of suitable candidates for Honorary Consul posts in Africa region  No. of Communications/ Follow up actions with relevant SL Missions and Protocol Division		87.5%	

<b>Africa Affairs Division (Contd.,)</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected out put</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<p><b>Holding Bilateral Consultations with the countries where Sri Lanka has signed MoUs/Agreements:</b></p> <p>No. of Bilateral Consultations held in 2022</p> <p>No. of Communications/ Follow up actions with line Agencies and relevant SL Missions.</p>		84%	
<p><b>Conclude /pending Agreements/MoUs on Joint Commissions and Bilateral Consultations etc</b></p> <p>No. of Policy analysis prepared with regard to Agreements/MoU</p> <p>No. of discussions by SL envoys in African countries with their counterparts.</p>		85%	
<p><b>Engagement with Africa:</b></p> <p>Number of communications/ actions /interactions on establishment of Missions</p> <p>No. of visits to African countries</p> <p>No. of high-level meetings arranged</p> <p>No. of follow up actions</p>		82.5%	
<p><b>Enhance Cooperation with Regional and international Organizations in Africa</b></p> <p>No. of outward high-level visits</p> <p>No. of/ meetings/ interactions with high level officials of regional organizations by Sri Lankan envoys</p> <p>Coordinate with SL Missions to get invitations for important events at regional organizations</p> <p>No of discussions by SL envoys in African countries with their counterparts</p>		89%	
<p><b>Interaction with African Member States at the Human Right Council (HRC):</b></p> <p>No. of Meetings / telephone conversations/interactions with HRC members in African region</p> <p>No. of visits by the Foreign Minister to Member States</p> <p>No. of communications to SL Missions/Posts and follow up actions</p>		82%	

<b>Africa Affairs Division (Contd.,)</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected out put</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<p><b>Ensure support for Sri Lanka's Candidatures at Multilateral fora from African States</b></p> <p>No. of Meetings/ telephone conversations/interactions with Africa states on candidature related issues</p> <p>No. of discussions by SL envoys in African countries with their counterparts.</p>		83%	
<p><b>Enhancing Security Cooperation of African Region:</b></p> <p>No. of communications/follow up actions with line Agencies and relevant SL Missions/Posts</p> <p>No. of discussions by SL envoys in African countries with their counterparts</p>		83%	
<p><b>Cultural Diplomacy and People to people relations</b></p> <p><b>No of discussions by SL envoys in African countries with their counterparts</b></p> <p>Public Diplomacy ( Press Releases and Social Media Posts )</p> <p>No of press releases issued</p>		85%	

#### 4.3.2 Americas Division

<b>Americas Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected out put</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<p><b>Political Diplomacy (Bilateral/Multilateral):</b></p> <p>Enhance Diplomatic engagements (no. of communications/ actions/interactions regarding rationalization of concurrent accreditations)</p> <p>No. of discussions by the Foreign Minister, State Minister, Foreign Secretary, Additional Secretary/ Bilateral Affairs-West, DG/ Americas and other staff officers with foreign envoys, Diplomatic officers &amp; visiting dignitaries.</p> <p>No. of discussions by Sri Lankan envoys &amp; Diplomatic officials with respective Foreign Ministry officials and officers from other agencies.</p>		86%	

<b>Americas Division (Contd.,)</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected out put</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<p>No. of communications and analysis on important political developments.</p> <p>No. of incoming and outgoing visits facilitated.</p> <p>No. of Bilateral Political Consultations held/follow up actions with line agencies.</p> <p>No. of communications, discussions and meetings to finalize GoSL submissions to the US Department of Trafficking in Persons Report 2022.</p> <p>No. of Signed MoUs/Agreements</p> <p>No. of meetings/discussions and communications to finalize MoUs/Agreements</p>			
<p><b>Economic Diplomacy(Bilateral/Multilateral):</b></p> <p>Enhancing bilateral trade, investments, tourism &amp; development assistance.</p> <p>No. of discussions by Sri Lankan envoys &amp; diplomatic officials with officials in relevant agencies in respective countries.</p> <p>No. of communications/ follow up actions taken.</p> <p>No. of interactions with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in enhancing economic revival in Sri Lanka.</p> <p>No. of discussions with foreign envoys and diplomatic officials.</p> <p>No. of quarterly reports on exports, investments, and tourist arrivals from respective destinations.</p>		88%	
<p><b>Defence and security cooperation:</b></p> <p>No. of defence related visits (incoming and outgoing).</p> <p>No. of military equipment donations.</p> <p>No. of training programmes offered for Sri Lankan military.</p> <p>No. of military joint exercises.</p>		86%	

<b>Americas Division (Contd.,)</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected out put</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<p><b>Cultural Diplomacy and people to people relations:</b></p> <p>No. of events organized by Missions to celebrate important cultural and religious events with the participation of Overseas Sri Lankans (OSLs) in respective countries.</p> <p>No. of cultural/religious events attended by Mission representatives organized by OSLs in respective countries.</p> <p>Engagement with donor agencies in respective countries to assist Sri Lanka in its path to economic recovery.</p>	90%		
<p><b>Consular Diplomacy and Migrant labour welfare, Overseas Sri Lankans and COVID-19 related activity:</b></p> <p>Digitalization of certain consular activities to provide expeditious services to the public.</p> <p>No of consular mobile services undertaken by Missions.</p> <p>No of visas and gratis visas facilitated.</p> <p>No of communications to line agencies, Department of Immigration &amp; Emigration and the resident Missions concerning visas.</p> <p>No of follow up actions.</p> <p>Engagement with OSL organizations in respective countries to assist Sri Lanka in its path to economic recovery.</p>	90%		

### 4.3.3 East Asia Division

East Asia Division			
Priority Area	Actual Output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	100% - 90%	89% - 75%	74% - 50%
Economic Diplomacy (Bilateral/Multilateral)	92%		
Political Diplomacy (Bilateral/Multilateral)	92%		
Defense & Security Cooperation	83%		
Public Diplomacy		74%	
Consular Diplomacy and Migrant Labour Welfare, Overseas Sri Lanka & Covid related Activity			54%
Cultural Diplomacy and People to People Relations			64%
Human Resources, Mission Management, Overseas Assets Management & Development			52%
Other ( science diplomacy, education )	95%		

### 4.3.4 Europe, Central Asia, Europe Union and Commonwealth Division

Europe, CA, EU & CW Division			
Priority Area	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	100% -90%	89% -75%	74% - 50%
<b>Economic Diplomacy (Bilateral/Multilateral):</b> Eg: Enhancing bilateral trade & economic cooperation No. of meetings held No. of communications, follow up actions taken No. of discussions by SL envoys No. of quarterly reports on exports, investment, tourist arrival from respective destinations.		80%	
<b>Political Diplomacy (Bilateral/Multilateral):</b> Eg: Enhance Diplomatic engagements No. of communications/actions/interaction regarding rationalization of concurrent accreditations - No. of discussions by SL envoys - Signed MoUs/Agreements - No. of Bilateral Consultations held - No. of Communications/Follow up actions with line Agencies - No. of Police Analysis prepared with regard to Agreements/MoU	95%		

<b>Multilateral Diplomacy</b>	<b>90%</b>		
<b>Defence &amp; Security cooperation (visits, trainings)</b>	<b>90%</b>		
<b>Public Diplomacy</b>		<b>85%</b>	
<b>Consular Diplomacy and Migrant Labour Welfare, Overseas Sri Lanka &amp; COVID-19 related activity</b>			<b>75%</b>
<b>Science Diplomacy</b>			<b>60%</b>
<b>Cultural Diplomacy and people to people relations</b>			<b>70%</b>

#### 4.3.5 Middle East Division

<b>Middle East Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100% -90%</b>	<b>89% -75%</b>	<b>74% - 50%</b>
<b>Economic Diplomacy:</b> Enhancing bilateral trade & economic cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No. of meetings held</li> <li>- No. of communications, follow up action taken</li> <li>- No. of discussions by SL envoys</li> <li>- No. of quarterly reports on exports, investment, tourist arrival from respective destinations</li> </ul>	<b>90%</b>		
<b>Political Diplomacy (Bilateral/Multilateral):</b> Enhance Diplomatic engagements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No. of discussions by SL envoys</li> <li>- Signed MoUs/Agreements</li> <li>- No. of Bilateral Consultations/Follow up actions with line Agencies</li> <li>- No. of Policy analysis prepared with regard to Agreements/MoU</li> </ul>	<b>90%</b>		
<b>Multilateral Diplomacy</b>		<b>75%</b>	
<b>Cultural Diplomacy and people to people relations</b>		<b>85%</b>	
<b>Defence &amp; Security Cooperation</b>			<b>50%</b>
<b>Public Diplomacy and (Press Releases and Social Media Posts)</b>		<b>75%</b>	
<b>Consular Diplomacy, Migrant Labour Welfare and COVID -19 related activities</b>	<b>90%</b>		
<b>Science Diplomacy</b>		<b>85%</b>	
<b>Human Resources, Mission Management &amp; Overseas Assets Management &amp; Development</b>	<b>95%</b>		

### 4.3.6 South Asia Division

South Asia Division			
Priority Area	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	100%-90%	89%-75%	74%-50%
<b>Economic Diplomacy(Bilateral/Multilateral)Enhancing bilateral trade &amp; economic cooperation:</b> No. of economic related meetings held - 12, No. of communications, follow up actions taken- 21, No. of discussions by SL envoys -3, No. of quarterly reports on exports, investment, tourist arrivals from respective destinations - 4,Business Networking Events -13, B2B Meetings-20, New Products Introduction/Joint Ventures-1, Policy Issues-5, Market Reports-11, Investment Proposals-3, Webinars-13, Tourism Publicity Compaings-3		87%	
<b>Political Diplomacy (Bilateral/Multilateral):</b> Bilateral Visits-7, High Level Virtual Meetings/ Telephone calls-3, Bilateral meetings - 6, Meetings with Ministers-6, Meetings with Senior Officials-5, Facilitated India's Financial Assistance to Sri Lanka-US\$ 3.9 billion , High level contacts with States-3, Coordination of concurrent accreditations-95 countries from New Delhi, No. of communications/ actions/ interactions regarding rationalization of concurrent accreditations: 50, No. of discussions by SL envoys - 23,No.of Signed MoUs / Agreements - 8, No. of Bilateral Consultations/ Follow up actions with line Agencies - 35, No. of Policy analysis prepared with regard to Agreements/MoU -1		84%	
<b>Multilateral Diplomacy:</b> Enhancing engagement with Multilateral organizations: Meetings held -30	90%		
<b>Cultural Diplomacy and people to people relations</b> - No. of events organized-44		88%	
<b>Defense &amp; Security Cooperation:</b> Bilateral and Multilateral military exercises-1, Major Defence events-2, Sri Lanka Navy ships visits-2, Proposals to Enhance Defence cooperation-43, Interactions with Heads of Defence establishments-40		85%	
<b>Public Diplomacy and (Press Releases and Social Media Posts):</b> Number of media releases issued : 34 Twitter Posts, 106 Facebook Posts and 10 Media interviews	91%		
<b>Consular Diplomacy, Migrant Labor Welfare and COVID-19 related activities:</b> A large number of Sri Lankan were assisted through consular and other services in 2022.	93%		

<b>Science Diplomacy:</b> Number of follow-up action on technical cooperation-16			69%
<b>Human Resources, Mission Management &amp; Overseas Assets Management &amp; Development:</b> Number of follow-up actions on HR & Assets matters-36		87%	

#### 4.3.7 South East Asia Division

<b>South East Asia Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (5) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89% - 75%</b>	<b>74% - 50%</b>
<b>Economic Diplomacy (Bilateral /Multilateral)</b> Enhancing bilateral trade & economic cooperation - No. of meetings held - 40 - No. of communications, follow up actions taken-3 - No. of discussions by SL envoys -20 - No. of quarterly reports on exports, investment, tourist arrival from respective destinations - 66	95%		
<b>Political Diplomacy (Bilateral/ Multilateral)</b> Enhance Diplomatic engagements - No. of communications/ actions/ interactions-9 - No. of discussions by Sri Lanka envoys -12 - Signed MoUs/ Agreement -2 - No. of Bilateral Consultations held (on going) 1 - No. of Communications/ Follow up actions with line Agencies -5		80%	
<b>Defence &amp; Security Cooperation (visit, trainings)</b> - No. of MoU followed up/ signed - 3 - No. of trainings/ visits - 13			70%
<b>Public Diplomacy (press release, tweets)</b> - No. of press releases – 13 - No. of Facebook posts/ updates -180 - No. of tweets -200 - No. of events attended - 10	98%		
<b>Consular Diplomacy and Migrant Labour Welfare, Overseas Sri Lanka &amp; COVID-19 related activity</b> - A large number of Sri Lankans were assisted through consular and other services in 2022	95%		

<b>Cultural Diplomacy and people to people relations (events, discussions)</b> - No. of events organized (most of the planned events could not be held due to Covid 19 related restrictions)			75%
<b>Human Resources, Mission Management, Overseas Assets Management &amp; Development (meetings trainings)</b> Number of follow up actions on HR & Assets matters		80%	

#### 4.4 Achievement of Key Performance Indicators: Operational Divisions

##### 4.4.1 Consular Division

<b>Consular Affairs Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100% - 90%</b>	<b>89% - 75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<b>Repatriation/deportation of Sri Lankans</b>			
<p>Consular Assistance to Sri Lankans for their return to SL and update Next of kins (NoKs) /relatives accordingly.</p> <p>Coordination with Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad and RCOs.</p> <p>Repatriation of SLBFE registered employees in coordination with them.</p> <p>Keep contact with organizations such as IMO/ICRC to obtain assistance in repatriation.</p> <p>Constant contact with Dept. I &amp; E on readmission cases.</p> <p>Assistance in issuing Temporary Travel Documents to irregular migrant workers.</p> <p>Coordination with relevant Ministries/ Departments (GA/GN/Police Stations where necessary).</p> <p>Coordination between the Ministry of Health and BIA authorities for medical assistance for Sri Lankans patients upon their arrival at BIA.</p> <p>Identify human traffickers and vulnerable migrants to send their details to respective authorities</p> <p>Assist Sri Lankans in crises situation when necessary.</p>	Completed on case by case basis.		
<b>Assist Sri Lankans' death overseas</b>			
<p>Ascertain the right NoK of the deceased.</p> <p>Coordination with Sri Lanka Missions abroad/RCOs/NoKs/relatives of the deceased to obtain affidavit/s and other relevant documents with regard to the death.</p> <p>Dispatch the relevant documents with regard to burial/cremation/repatriation to SL Missions to take further action.</p> <p>Coordination with Dept. E&amp;I/Personal Registration Dept., Register General Dept. and relevant GA/GN/Police Stations to ascertain the actual NoK.</p>	Completed on case by case basis		

Obtain relevant documents such as death certificate, cancelled PPT, medical report, and investigation report/postmortem report where necessary and handover them to the right NoK.	
<p>Contact with Airport Authorities and Negombo Hospital upon arrival of HR at BIA.</p> <p>Coordinate with the Health Ministry to obtain latest guidelines with regard to repatriation of HR.</p> <p>Coordinate with the compensation section of the Consular Section.</p> <p>Dispatch of Sri Lankan death certificate to NoK after receiving them from Sri Lanka Missions abroad. Transportation of valuables belong to deceased Sri Lankans and handover them to NoK.</p>	Completed on case by case basis
<b>Payment of compensation/other financial benefits belongs to Sri Lankan deceased</b>	
<p>No. of queries/requests attended and forward them SL Missions abroad to secure compensation.</p> <p>The total amount of compensation received each quarter.</p>	Completed on case by case basis
<b>Miscellaneous Consular Activities</b>	
<p>Provide necessary assistance and guidelines to register overseas births at Sri Lanka Mission abroad and distribute Sri Lankan birth certificates to the parents of the child once certificates are issued and dispatched to this Division.</p> <p>Assistance to obtain Foreign Police clearance certificates.</p> <p>Verify Foreign Degree certificates through Sri Lanka Mission abroad.</p>	Completed on case by case basis
<p>Provide assistance to Noks/relatives to pay blood money for the cases where Sri Lankans punished with death sentence.</p> <p>Assist non-registered SLBFE employees for various consular issues.</p> <p>Assistance to hospitalized Sri Lankans through SL Missions abroad.</p> <p>Forward relevant legal documents received from NoKs/relatives of Sri Lankan prisoners to be present at relevant courts or agencies.</p> <p>Ensure welfare of Sri Lankan detainees /prisoners at various level.</p> <p>Assist NoKs to find out missing Sri Lankan relatives.</p>	

Assistance provided to secure welfare of Sri Lankan children overseas.	
Coordinate with relevant line Ministries, Departments, SLBFE, RCOs etc.  Coordination with IMO, ICRC, social organizations etc.	Completed on case by case basis
<b>Attestation of certificates and documents through e-DAS</b>	
Attest various documents such as educational certificates, legal documents, export documents, unmarried documents, Birth, marriage, and Death certificates, police certificates etc. Received from individuals through e-DAS. Coordinate with particular Departments; Department of Examination, Registrar Generals Department, Ministry of Justice, Chamber of Commerce, Educational institutions etc.	Completed on case by case basis
Link with SL Missions overseas, RCOs in SL and foreign Missions based in Colombo. No. of certificates/documents certified - 382, 862 documents certified	Completed on case by case basis
<b>Decentralization of providing Consular Services</b>	
Opening of the Regional Offices with the coordination of Consular Affairs Division Offices Proposed: Anuradhapura, Ampara and Badulla - (Budgetary Allocation - LKR 7.5 million)	Decision to be revised

#### 4.4.2 General Administration Division

<b>General Administration Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<b>e-Cypher to develop Secure Communication Management system Ministry</b> Reduced paper usage by 30% Reduced % of space used for record keeping		75%	
<b>Introduction of a Common Website Platform for Missions/Posts Abroad</b> Number of websites domain URL changes to gov.lk domain Number of websites adopt to common web platform			30%
<b>Training on application of IT knowledge</b> No. of video training sessions conducted No. of training programmes conducted for the Ministry staff	100%		
<b>Introduction of Transportation Management System (TMS)</b> Number of vehicles enrolled to the TMS Number of Divisions enrolled to the TMS			60%
<b>Relocation of the Ministry</b> Relevant Institutions and Agencies consulted Negotiations conducted			20%

#### 4.4.3 Human Resources and Mission Management Division

<b>HR &amp; MM Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as per percentage [%] of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
Overall administration of the Human Resources & Mission Management of the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad		85%	

#### 4.4.4 Internal Audit Division

Internal Audit Division			
Priority Area	Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output		
	100% -90%	89% -75%	74% - 50%
Monitor and evaluate the performance of the Ministry, its Missions/Posts as a government institute accountable to the Parliament.  - Number of internal audit reports submitted with recommendations for exposing internal control deficiencies and correcting them.			52%

#### 4.4.5 Legal Division

Legal Division			
Priority Area	Actual output as per percentage [%] of the expected output		
	100%-90%	89%-75%	74%-50%
<b>Economic Diplomacy (Bilateral /Multilateral) Trade &amp; Investments:</b>  <b>Bilateral Investment Treaties (UAE &amp; Turkey)</b>  <b>Law of the Sea:</b> The Sub-Commission appointed by the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf of Sri Lanka (UNCLCS) has provisionally accepted Sri Lanka's claim by accepting that Sri Lanka has fulfilled the four criteria required to establish Sri Lanka's Continental Margin subject to finalizing the outer limits of the Continental Shelf. Arguments against the applicability of 350M (Nautical Miles) constraint to Sri Lanka were developed with the Committee for negotiations with the UN Sub commission held from 25 October to 2 November 2022.  <b>Double Tax Agreements:</b> Cyprus, Hungary, Malta, Ukraine, Denmark, India, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Saudi Arabia and Turkey	98%	75%	75%

<p><b>Air Services Agreements</b> : Netherlands, Israel , Search &amp; Rescue MoUs with India &amp; Indonesia Action taken to Designate Fits Air for Kuwait, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore</p> <p><b>BIMSTEC :</b> Signing of BIMSTEC Charter, BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Memorandum of Association for the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility and BIMSTEC MoU on Mutual Cooperation in the field of Diplomatic Training</p>	<b>100%</b>		
<p><b>Political Diplomacy (Bilateral /Multilateral)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Privileges &amp; Immunities</b> Green Climate Fund International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)</li> <li>- <b>Visa Exemptions Agreements</b> Cambodia</li> </ul>		<b>87%</b>	
<p><b>Consular Diplomacy, Migrant Labor Welfare and COVID – 19 related activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Readmission</b> Negotiations on EU Readmission Protocols were finalized with Italy, France and the Netherlands on behalf of the Benelux and the Protocols could be finalized for signature.</li> </ul>	<b>90%</b>		
<p><b>Right to Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 34 RTI requests were received under the RTI Act No. 12 of 2016</li> </ul>	<b>90%</b>		
<p><b>Signed Agreements and MoUs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 27 Agreements/MoUs were signed and deposited in the Treaty Depository of the Legal Division</li> </ul>	<b>95%</b>		

#### 4.4.6 Overseas Asset Management and Development Division

<b>Overseas Assets Management and Development Division</b>			
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected output</b>		
	<b>100% -90%</b>	<b>89% -75%</b>	<b>74% - 50%</b>
<b>Abandoned/Unoccupied Buildings- Overseas Missions</b>		75%	
<b>Long Pending Audit Quarries</b>		75%	
<b>Curtailing Mission expenditure</b>			50%
<b>Digitalization of the Assets of the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad.</b>		70%	
<b>Travel Unit</b> Visas and ticketing arrangements for 54 officials of the Ministry Travel allowances and other entitlements were paid for 112 officials of the Ministry  1222 Third Person Notes (TPN) have also been issued to facilitate visas for government officials from various governmental organizations.	95%		

#### 4.4.7 Protocol Division

<b>Protocol Division</b>			
<b>Priorities</b>	<b>Actual output as a percentage (%) of the expected</b>		
	<b>100%-90%</b>	<b>89%-75%</b>	<b>74%-50%</b>
<b>Establishment of a Diplomatic Enclave</b> Identification of a suitable land			<b>35%</b>
<b>Digitalization of the documentation process of the Division</b> Number of initial training programme Arranged	<b>100%</b>		
<b>Training for the staff (Capacity building of the Protocol Staff)</b> Number of training programs Conducted for staff.		<b>85%</b>	
<b>Revamping of the Protocol Division on the Ministry Website</b> Compilation updated information No of Diplomatic IDs issued	<b>90%</b>		
<b>Updating the Protocol Manual</b> Necessary research are being carried out	<b>90%</b>		
<b>Reviewing the existing Policies on facilitating foreign dignitaries for State and Official visits</b> Making amendments to the existing policies No of meetings/interactions	<b>90%</b>		
<b>Locating the dates for establishment of diplomatic relations with foreign countries</b> Necessary research are being carried out		<b>80%</b>	
<b>Recruiting new Protocol Officers following the newly approved cadre</b> Expanding of Protocol staff cadre			<b>10%</b>

## **CHAPTER -5 - PERFORMANCE OF ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)**

### **5.1 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>4</sup>**

Sri Lanka has made steady progress in achieving the SDGs. According to the Global Sustainable Development Report, consecutively for the second time, Sri Lanka has improved its global rank by 11 positions and is placed at 76<sup>th</sup> place out of 163 countries in 2022. In 2021 too, Sri Lanka moved up by 7 places to 87<sup>th</sup> out of 165 countries, showing a steady progress in achieving the SDGs. The overall country score has increased to 70, which is well above the regional average of 65.9.

According to the Global Sustainable Development Report 2022, Quality Education (Goal 4) and Climate Action (Goal 13) are important areas where Sri Lanka is maintaining steady progress. In addition, the reduction in age-standardized death rate due to non-communicable diseases in adults aged 30–70 years (contributing to performance under Goal 3 on Good Health and Wellbeing), reduction in Permanent deforestation (contributing to performance under Goal 15 on Life on Land) and increase in the times Higher Education Universities Ranking: Average score of top 3 universities (contributing to performance under Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities) are some of the notable improvements made by Sri Lanka during the reporting period.

In addition, Sri Lanka has also made considerable progress in strengthening the SDG data landscape such that Sri Lanka has been placed at 10<sup>th</sup> place out of 53 countries in the Asia-Pacific region for SDG data availability as per the latest analysis done by the UNESCAP. This would enable Sri Lanka's capacity for evidence informed policy making for SDGs in future.

#### **5.1.1 Sri Lanka's Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development**

- i. The VNR is part of the formal inter-governmental follow-up and review process on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It represents a country's progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to its peers and other stakeholders at the global level. The VNR is guided by the UN Secretary-General's Voluntary Guidelines which were recognized by the UN General Assembly in 2016.
- ii. Sri Lanka's Second VNR was conducted with the participation of over 700 multi-level stakeholders and includes an analysis of the current status and trends, gaps and challenges and opportunities for achieving the SDGs in line with Sri Lanka's commitment to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.
- iii. Sri Lanka presented its 2nd Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report 2022 on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held in New York in 15 July 2022.

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<sup>4</sup> The source of information provided under this Chapter is the Sustainable Development Council (SDC) in Sri Lanka.

## CHAPTER- 6-HUMAN RESOURCES PROFILE OF THE MINISTRY

### 6.1. Cadre Management

#### 6.1.1 Staff of the Ministry (Colombo) as at 31 December 2022

Category	Approved Cadre	Existing	Vacancies/ Excess
Senior	104	93	11
Tertiary	11	01	10
Secondary	370	397	27
Primary	126	129	3

#### 6.1.2. Staff of the Missions as at 31 December 2022

Category	Approved Cadre	Existing	Vacancies/ Excess
<b>Home Based</b>			
Senior/ Tertiary <sup>5</sup>	258	175	83
Secondary <sup>6</sup>	263	189	74
Primary <sup>7</sup>	7	6	1
<b>Locally Recruited</b>			
Secondary <sup>8</sup>	255	165	90
Primary <sup>9</sup>	327	238	89

#### 6.1.3. Justification of existing Cadre of the Ministry

The requirement of increase of all levels of staff employed in the Ministry has been raised during the year, with the increase of functional scope of this Ministry. Considering the current need and forecasted future trends in international affairs, expansion of the functions of the Divisions is vital to achieve the objectives of Sri Lanka's foreign policy.

The Ministry has identified the need to scrutinize the number of approved cadre of staff officers and other supportive staff. To this effect, a cadre rationalization exercise of staff in the Missions/Posts was undertaken. However, noting the current contractions/diversification in the workload in Missions/Posts due to the pandemic and economic downturn, it was decided that any proposed cadre revision should be considered as a temporary measure in the existing cadre.

In order to address the shortages in human resources in the Ministry, the Ministry had proposed a comprehensive organizational restructuring to the Department of Management Services (DMS). Accordingly, the Ministry had a number of discussions with the DMS during the period under review. The prolonged vacancies at IT and translation services have affected the effectiveness of the performance of the Ministry. Particularly, there is any cost-effectiveness of recruiting translators on temporary basis to the Ministry which has been a practice of the Ministry over a number of years.

The Ministry further notes that the delay in conducting the Open Competitive Examination for recruitment to the SLFS since 2018 has created a vacuum of SLFS Officers in the Ministry and the situation has further worsened with several retirements of senior SLFS officers during the recent years. At the same time, lack of human resources at supportive staff level and at junior executive level have also over-burdened the staff officers at senior level and mid-level. However, this Ministry took steps to utilize the existing cadre in order to carry out the tasks effectively without causing a negative impact on its performance.

<sup>5</sup> Head of the Mission, Minister Counsellor, Counsellor, First Secretary, Second Secretary, Third Secretary

<sup>6</sup> Officers in Management Service Officer's Service including Development Assistant, Information Technology Officers

<sup>7</sup> Officers including Drivers, KKS, Sanitary Labours

<sup>8</sup> Officers including Clerks, Receptionists, Stenographers, Translators, Information Technology Officers

<sup>9</sup> Officers including KKS, Drivers and Sanitary Labours

## 6.2 Human Resource Development

### Training Programmes conducted for all officers of the Ministry

#	Programme	No. of officers trained	Duration	Total Investment (LKR)		Nature of the Programme (Abroad/ Local)	Output/ Knowledge Gained
				Local (LKR)			
1.	Establishment Procedures for the Officers at the Jaffna Regional Consular Office (Tamil)	8	2 Days 12 & 13 Feb. 2022	8,500		Local	Enhanced the knowledge on Establishment Procedures.
2.	Computer Hardware with Networking	1	6 Months	32,000		Local	Acquired the new knowledge on Computer Hardware and networking.
3.	Diploma in Business English at University of Colombo	1	1 Year	32,500		Local	Enhanced knowledge in English Language.
4.	Internal Auditing Practices in the Public Sector	1	3 Days 23, 24 & 25 Aug. 2022	18,000		Local	Enhanced knowledge on auditing practices in Public Sector.
5.	Tamil Language Course (for Sinhala Medium Officers)	76	Started on 12 March 2022 and still ongoing	112,500		Local	Improved working knowledge in Sinhala.
6.	Tamil Language Course (for Sinhala Medium Officers)	20	Started on 26 March 2022 and still ongoing	75,000		Local	Improved working knowledge in Sinhala.
7.	Bid Evaluation in Public Procurement DLC	2	28 & 29 March 2022	6,000		Local	Enhanced knowledge in bid evaluation
8.	Government Payroll System	3	3 Days 12-14 October 2022	54,000		Local	Enhanced knowledge in payroll system.

9.	Serving etiquettes for the Officers of the Office Employment Service	62	1 Day	125,000	Local	Awareness on serving etiquettes to be followed at meetings/functions in the Ministry & Missions abroad.
10.	Training Programme on basic IT skills and knowledge	174	27 January 2022 (1 ½ hours)	-	Virtual	Improvement of IT hands-on skills of the officers concerned.
11.	Workshops on Emotional well-being conducted by the "Sumithrayo"	200	3 Days 21 February, 2 & 9 March 2022	-	Virtual	Upgrading the emotional well-being and emotional intelligence of the officials particularly in their interpersonal relations.
12.	Security Salon on "Ukraine Crisis: Global and Regional impact and its consequences to National Security in Sri Lanka"	5	24 May 2022 (1 ½ hour)	-	Virtual	Obtaining knowledge on national security concerns of Sri Lanka.
13.	Awareness programme on matters related to Consular Affairs	95	2 Days 27 & 28 July 2022	-	Virtual	Improvement of basic knowledge on consular matters.
14.	Awareness programme on Sri Lankan IT Industry: Vision & Strategy	84	1 Day 25 August 2022	-	Local	Enhanced knowledge on IT industry in Sri Lanka.
15.	Awareness Programme for Drivers serving in the Foreign Ministry	60	1 Days 1 September 2022	-	Local	Improvement of the basic knowledge of road rules, signs and safety, basic understanding of protocol and general conduct.
16.	Workshop on International Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Diplomacy	30	2 Days 17 & 18 Sep. 2022	-	Local	Understanding of the basic principles of IHL, Humanitarian Diplomacy and some of the key challenges of the IHL.

17.	Conducting a Familiarization Programme on Immigration /Emigration related issues for the officials of Sri Lanka Missions/Posts	84	2 Days 7 & 8 Sep. 2022	-	Virtual	Improvement of capabilities of the officials who are responsible for handling consular related matters and identification of contemporary issues in the Sri Lankan Overseas Missions/Posts.
18.	Orientation Programme for Newly appointed Ambassadors/High Commissioners-designate	15	5 Days 16-23 Dec. 2022	524,050	Local	Familiarization of current economic, political and social context of Sri Lanka
19.	The Young Asian Diplomats Programme organized by the Asia Foundation	1	18 Days 5 to 22 June 2022	Fully funded by the organizer	Abroad (United States of America)	Integration with the young diplomats in the Asia region and awareness on the diplomatic practices.
20.	Executive Seminar for Young Diplomats and Officials from the Asia Pacific Region organized by the Federal Foreign Office, Germany	1	26 Days 13 June to 8 July 2022	Fully funded by the organizer	Abroad (Germany)	Awareness on international relations and contemporary diplomatic practices.
21.	Short Course on International Relations and Diplomacy organized by the Foreign Service Academy (FSA), Bangladesh	1	17 days 15 to 31 May 2022	Fully funded by the organizer	Abroad (Bangladesh)	Awareness on international relations and contemporary diplomatic practices.
22.	Advanced Foreign Service Programme for Foreign Diplomats organized by the Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA), India	1	15 Days 04 to 18 June 2022	Fully funded by the organizer	Abroad (India)	Awareness on international relations and contemporary diplomatic practices.

23.	The center for International Law (CIL) at the Seoul Academy of International Law (SAIL) organized by the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), Republic of Korea	1	12 Days 04-15 July 2022	Fully funded by the organizer	Abroad (Republic of Korea)	Awareness on international relations and contemporary diplomatic practices.
24.	2022 East Asian Diplomacy Programme (EADP) organized by the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), Republic of Korea	1	23 Days 19 Sep to 11 Nov 2022	Fully funded by the organizer	Abroad (Republic of Korea)	Awareness on international relations and contemporary diplomatic practices.
25.	The Role of the EU Cyber Ecosystem in Global Cyber Security Stability Programme organized by the European Security and Defence College, Belgium	1	3 Days 22 to 24 November 2022	Fully funded by the organizer	Abroad (Belgium)	Awareness on global cyber security

## CHAPTER- 7 – COMPLIANCE REPORT

#	Requirement	Status Complied/ Not Complied)	Brief Explanation for Non Compliance	Proposed Corrective Measures to avoid non-compliance in future
<b>1. The following financial statements/accounts have been submitted on the due date</b>				
1.1	Annual Financial Statement	Complied	N/A	N/A
1.2	Advance to Public Officers Account	Complied	N/A	N/A
1.3	Trading and Manufacturing Advance Accounts (Commercial Advance Accounts)	Not applicable	N/A	N/A
1.4	Stores Advance Accounts	Not applicable	N/A	N/A
1.5	Special Advance Accounts	Not applicable	N/A	N/A
1.6	Others	Not applicable	N/A	N/A
<b>2. Maintenances of books and registers (FR 445)</b>				
2.1	Maintaining and updating fixed assets register in terms of Public Administration Circular 267/2018	Complied	N/A	N/A
2.2	Maintaining and updating personal emoluments register/personal emoluments	Complied	N/A	N/A
2.3	Maintaining and updating the register of audit queries	Complied	N/A	N/A
2.4	Maintaining and updating the Register of Internal Audit reports	Complied	N/A	N/A
2.5	Preparing and submitting all the monthly account summaries (CIGAZ) to the Treasury on due date	Complied	N/A	N/A
2.6	Maintaining and updating the register for cheques and money orders	Complied	N/A	N/A
2.7	Maintaining and updating the Inventory Register	Complied	N/A	N/A
2.8	Maintaining and updating the Stocks Register	Complied	N/A	N/A
2.9	Maintaining and updating the Register of Losses	Not Complied	Late receipt of information from the Sri Lanka Missions/Pos ts abroad.	Expected to complete in the next year.

2.10	Maintaining and updating the Commitment Register	Complied	N/A	N/A
2.11	Maintaining and updating the Register of Counterfoil Books (GA - N20)	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>3. Delegation of functions for financial control (FR 135)</b>				
3.1	Delegating the financial authority within the institute	Complied	N/A	N/A
3.2	Awareness on the delegation of financial authority	Complied	N/A	N/A
3.3	Delegating the authority ensuring that more than three officers are involved in the process of approving the each transaction	Complied	N/A	N/A
3.4	Using the Government Payroll Software Package which was introduced through the State Account Circular 171/2004 dated 11 May 2014 under the supervision of the Accountants	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>4. Preparation of Annual Plans</b>				
4.1	Preparation of Annual Action Plan	Complied	N/A	N/A
4.2	Preparation of Annual Procurement Plan	Complied	N/A	N/A
4.3	Preparation of Annual Internal Audit Plan	Complied	N/A	N/A
4.4	Preparation and submission of annual estimate to the NBD on due date	Complied	N/A	N/A
4.5	Preparation and submission of Annual Cash Flow Statement to the Operations Department of the Treasury on due date	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>5. Audit Queries</b>				
5.1	Responding to all audit queries by the date given by the Auditor General	Not Complied	Delay in receiving responses from the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad due to practical difficulties including the COVID-19 pandemic.	This was discussed at the last Audit and Management Committee meeting and the instructions were given to comply with the requirements accordingly.

<b>6. Internal Audit</b>				
6.1	Preparation of Internal Audit Plan at the beginning of the year in line with the Financial Regulation 134 (2) DMA/1-2019 in consultation with the Auditor General.	Complied	N/A	N/A
6.2	Responding to all internal audit reports within a period of one month.	Complied	N/A	N/A
6.3	Submission of copies of all the internal audit reports to the Management Audit Department in terms of Sub-section 40(4) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.	Complied	N/A	N/A
6.4	Submission of copies of internal audit reports to the Auditor General in terms of Financial Regulation 134(3).	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>7. Audit and Management Committees</b>				
7.1	Holding at least four (4) meetings of the Audit and Management Committee in terms of the DMA Circular I-2019	Not Complied	It was difficult to summon the Committee due to the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 and other economic challenges.	However, a meeting was held on 19 October 2022 and the arrangements have been made to summon the meeting as per the circular requirement in 2023.
<b>8. Asset Management</b>				
8.1	Submission of information about purchases and disposal of assets to the Comptroller General's Office in terms of paragraph 7 of the Assets Management Circular No.01/2017	Complied	N/A	N/A
8.2	Transmission of the details of the Liaison Officer who was appointed to coordinate the implementation of the provisions of the circular to the Comptroller General's Office, in terms of paragraph 13 of the aforesaid circular.	Complied	N/A	N/A
8.3	Conducting boards of survey and submission of the relevant reports to the Auditor General on due date in terms of Public Finance Circular	Complied	N/A	Boards have been approved for the year 2022, tasks will be completed

	No. 05/2016.			by March 2023.
8.4	Actions on the excesses, deficits and other recommendations which were disclosed through the boards of survey during the period specified in the circular.	Complied	N/A	N/A
8.5	The disposal of condemn articles in terms of FR 772	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>9. Management of Vehicles</b>				
9.1	Preparation and submission of daily running charts and monthly summaries of the pool vehicles to the Auditor General on due date.	Complied	N/A	N/A
9.2	Disposal of condemned vehicles within a period of less than 6 months of condemnation.	complied	N/A	N/A
9.3	Maintaining and updating the vehicle logbooks	Complied	N/A	N/A
9.4	Actions on all accidents in terms of FR103, 104,109 and 110.	Complied	N/A	N/A
9.5	Re-examination of fuel consumption of vehicles in terms of the provisions of paragraph 3.1 of the Public Administration Circular No.30/2016 of 29 December 2016	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>10. Management of Bank Accounts</b>				
10.1	Preparation of bank reconciliation statements and make them ready for the auditing on the due date	Complied	N/A	N/A
10.2	Settlement of dormant accounts that had been existed in the year under review or since previous years.	Complied	N/A	N/A
10.3	The action had been taken in terms of Financial Regulations regarding balances that had been disclosed through bank reconciliation statements and for which adjustments had to be made, and had those balances been settled within one month	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>11. Utilization of Provisions</b>				
11.1	Utilization of allocations without exceeding the limit	Complied	N/A	N/A
11.2	The liabilities not exceeding the provisions that remained at the end of the year as per the FR 94(1)	Complied	N/A	N/A

<b>12. Advances to Public Officers Account</b>				
12.1	Compliance with the limits	Complied	N/A	N/A
12.2	Time analysis on the loan arrears	Complied	N/A	N/A
12.3	Settlement of loan balances in arrears for over a year.	Not Complied	Difficulty finding information	Action will be taken to find the information
<b>13. General Deposit Account</b>				
13.1	Actions on lapsed deposits in terms of FR 571.	Complied	N/A	N/A
13.2	Maintaining and updating the control register for general deposit had been updated and maintained	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>14. Imprest Account</b>				
14.1	Remittance of the balance in the cash book which is under review at the end of year to TOD	Complied	N/A	N/A
14.2	Settlement of ad-hoc sub imprest issued under FR 371 within one month from the completion of the task.	Complied	N/A	N/A
14.3	Issuance of ad-hoc sub imprest without exceeding the limit approved by the FR371	Complied	N/A	N/A
14.4	Monthly reconciliation of balance of the imprest account with the Treasury books	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>15. Revenue Account</b>				
15.1	Spending the collected revenue in terms of the regulations	Not applicable	N/A	N/A
15.2	Crediting the collected revenue to the revenue account without crediting to the deposit account	Not applicable	N/A	N/A
15.3	Submission of the reports on arrears of revenue to the Auditor General in terms of FR 176	Not applicable	N/A	N/A
<b>16. Human Resource Management</b>				
16.1	Maintaining the staff within the approved cadre	Complied	N/A	N/A
16.2	Issuance of duty lists to all members of the staff	Complied	N/A	N/A
16.3	Submission of all the reports to the DMS in terms circular No. 4/2017 dated 20 September 2017	Complied	N/A	N/A

<b>17. Provisions of Information to the Public</b>				
17.1	Nomination of an Information Officer and maintaining of a register of information in terms of Right To Information Act and its Regulations	Complied	N/A	N/A
17.2	Measures to receive allegations/appreciations of the public on the institute through the Ministry Website or any other means.	Complied	N/A	N/A
17.3	Submission of bi-annual and annual reports as per section 8 and 10 of the RTI Act.	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>18. Implementation of Citizens Charter</b>				
18.1	Formulation and implementation of a citizens charter/citizens client's charter of the Institution in terms of the circular number 05/2008 and 05/2018 (1) of Ministry of Public Administration and Management	Complied	N/A	N/A
18.2	Formulation of methodology by the Institution to monitor and assess the implementation of Citizens Charter / Citizens client's charter as per paragraph 2.3 of the circular	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>19. Preparation of the Human Resource Plan</b>				
19.1	Preparation of a human resource plan in terms of the format under Annexure -2 of the Public Administration Circular No. 02/2018 dated 24 January 2018.	Complied	N/A	N/A
19.2	Ensuring of providing minimum training opportunities which is not less than 12 hours per year for each member of the staff	Not Complied	Training opportunities for the Primary cadre were 100% completed. Secondary and Tertiary cadre were partially completed.	Due to frequent staff transfers from/to the other Ministries, Departments and overseas Missions/Posts, minimum training opportunity cannot be ensured.

19.3	Signing of Annual Performance Agreements for the entire staff based on the format of Annexure-1 of the aforesaid Circular	Complied for staff grade officers	N/A	N/A
19.4	Appointing of a senior officer by assigning the responsibility of preparing the human resource development plan, organizing capacity building programs and conducting skill development programs as per paragraph No.6.5 of the aforesaid Circular.	Complied	N/A	N/A
<b>20. Responding to the Audit Paragraphs</b>				
20.1	Rectification of shortcomings highlighted in the audit paragraphs issued by the Auditor General for the previous years.	Complied	N/A	N/A