**STOCKHOLM +50**

**PRIVATE SECTOR CONSULTATION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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| **Date**  | 11 May 2022 (Wednesday) |
| **Time** | 09.00 AM - 12:35 PM |
| **Venue**  | Virtual via Zoom  |

**Meeting Participants:**

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| **No.** | **Name** | **Title** | **Gender** | **Organization** | **Industry** |
| 1 | Manori Gunaratne | Sustainability Manager | Female | HPL | Agriculture |
| 2 | Waruna Krishantha Peiris | Senior Manager – Procurement  | Male | SPAR Sri Lanka | Retail |
| 3 | Thilini Maheshika | HSE Specialist  | Female | Phoenix Industries Limited | Consumer Products |
| 4 | Charitha Ratwatte | Head – Group Sustainability  | Male | Dialog Axiata PLC | Telecommunications |
| 5 | Sandra De Zoysa | Group Chief Customer Officer | Female | Dialog Axiata PLC | Telecommunications |
| 6 | Ashini Pothupitiya  | Specialist – Sustainability Execution  | Female | Dialog Axiata PLC | Telecommunications  |
| 7 | Asith De Silva | Senior Manager | Male | Dialog Axiata | Telecommunications |
| 8 | Amanthi Perera | Head Social Sustainability  | Female | MAS Capital (Pvt.) Ltd. | Manufacturing  |
| 9 | Minuri Adasuriya | Head of Programs  | Female | Hatch | Consulting  |
| 10 | Shehara Alahakoon | Head – Corporate ESG & DEI | Female | Wire Communication Consultancy | Advertising/Marketing/PR |
| 11 | Amal Dias | AGM HR and Admin Group | Male | Tropicoir Lanka Pvt Ltd | Manufacturing  |
| 12 | Pavithra Dissanayake | Consultant – Facilities and Sustainability  | Female | Virtusa | Software - Other |
| 13 | Chathuri Amaradiwakara | Manager – Corporate Sustainability  | Female | Hayleys Advantis Limited | Other |
| 14 | Kenneth Alles | Senior Manager Corporate Affairs  | Male | Kelani Valley Plantations PLC | Agriculture |
| 15 | Druvinke Peiris  | Project Executive for Development Finance and Environmental Social Governance | Male | Arinma Holdings (Pvt) Ltd | Consulting  |
| 16 | Sashika Kaluwahewa | Assistant Manager – Sustainability  | Female | Jetwing Hotels Ltd | Hospitality, Travel, Tourism  |
| 17 | Maznavi Rumy | EMA to Managing Director | Male | Amana Bank PLC | Banking & Securities  |
| 18 | Shehara Jayakodi  | Executive  | Female | Horana Plantations  | Agriculture  |
| 19 | Roshan Weerasinghe | Assistant Manager | Male | MAS Holdings | Manufacturing |
| 20 | Menuri Hapuarachchi | Client Service Associate | Female | Digital Wire | Other |
| 21 | Tharindu Weerakoon | Manager | Male | Horana Plantations | Agriculture  |
| 22 | Shazuli Raheem | Manager – Service and Quality Assurance | Male | Amana Bank PLC | Banking & Securities |

**Discussion Summary:**

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| Agenda Item | Discussion |
| Technical Discussion  | Following a breakdown of participants into 3 groups assigned to a particular LD group, and following an extensive focused group discussion amidst each, a focal point from each group presented their answers, and the following responses were discussed and validated – Leadership Dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all – (assigned to Group 1)Group 1 suggested the following inputs under each GQ, for which the other participants provided suggestions (see below) which were incorporated to finalize the overall inputs - GQ1 -

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| **Good Practices** | **Pathways** |
| Awareness creation on environmental initiatives (Especially among youth) | * Through university student groups
* Bring back the idea of connecting with nature from a young age – experiential learning
 |
| Sustainable agriculture | * Learn from traditional practices and scale up, regenerative agriculture
* Comply with environmentally sustainable standards, apply for environmental awards
 |
| Resource management | * Awareness raising and implementing waste segregation, reduce, reuse, and recycle waste at all levels
* Sustainable sourcing, design for waste reduction and reuse
* Driving circularity – go for partnerships
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GQ2 –

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| **Actions** | **Policies** | **Structures** |
| Resource management  | * Waste management policy
 | * Segregation structures
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| Sustainable agriculture  | * Science-based, long-term approach to sustainable agriculture (Short, medium, and long-term focus in policies)
 | * Partnering with academia, other research agencies, financial institutions, agriculture communities and regulatory authorities
 |
| Environmental awareness | * Making environment a core subject/area in education
 | * Training of trainers – teacher training
* Curricular revisions and incorporate changes
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GQ3 –

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| **How could marginalized and vulnerable groups benefit?** |
| 1 | Stakeholder engagement process in a structured manner to ensure their true participation  |
| 2 | Sustainable income generation opportunities for vulnerable groups – create specialists among them (e.g.: beach protection)  |
| 3 | Empower industrial symbiosis with SMEs |
| 4 | Targeted support and benefit schemes to marginalized groups that engage – offering concessions and tax exemptions |

GQ4 –

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| **How can we safeguard the rights of people and nature?** |
| 1 | Making people aware of their rights |
| 2 | Access to remedies (Affordable legal action/support) |
| 3 | Creation of whistleblowers and their protection |

GQ5 –

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| **Metrics** | **Indicators** |
| Balance score card approach to SDG achievements  | * Principles of true cost economies
* Measure for planet-related outcomes in corporate bottom line
 |
| Smaller achievable tasks defined for SDGs | * Energy intensity ratio
 |
| Circularity index |  |
| GRI standards  |  |

Meeting specific question –

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| **What kind of follow-up activities would you like to see?** |
| 1 | Feedback mechanism on outcomes – using digital platforms |
| 2 | Sharing of knowledge on products, best practices, and case studies |
| 3 | Realtime progress reporting mechanism |
| 4 | Learning and sharing platform |
| 5 | Q&A sessions with members on their experiences |

Leadership Dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from COVID-19 – (assigned to Group 2)Group 2 suggested the following inputs under each GQ, for which the other participants provided suggestions (see below) which were incorporated to finalize the overall inputs – GQ1 -

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| **Current Recovery Practices**  | **Public**  | **Private**  | **Civil Society**  |
| IndividualCommunityCityRegionalCountry  | State sector – Providing public services (e.g.: online renewal of revenue licenses by RMV) – e-Government |
| Community – Supporting each other  |
| e-Infrastructure (Digital banking, e-signatures etc.) |
| Use of virtual platforms especially by the sub-national populations |

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| **Scale up**  | **Public**  | **Private**  | **Civil Society**  |
| IndividualCommunityCityRegionalCountry  | State sector should continue to practice those best practices within the state sector with the development of necessary infrastructure and capacity building – “Never miss a good crisis” |
| Acceptance of the Sri Lankan e-signature system by the international community  |
| Work from home and flexi hours, particularly for women – needs to be recognized  |
| Promotion of e-mobility and non-motorized (non-IC) transport |

GQ2 –

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| **Pre-existing practices that need to be changed** |
| 1 | Predatory (Irrational) taxation |
| 2 | Lack of recognition of the private sector by the state |
| 3 | Lack of an efficient safety net for marginalized people |
| 4 | High stress for students in the present education system |

GQ3 –

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| **How do we ensure that all countries/communities can benefit?** |
| 1 | For the benefit of all communities – Automatic translation facilities (multilingual) for video conferencing, transcribing (in courts) etc.  |

GQ4 –

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| **How can we create better performing industries**  |
| 1 | Depoliticize regulators – Create a level playing field for everyone – monitor and intervene only when necessary and minimally  |
| 2 | Rule of law (Governance issues) |

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| **How can we create better performing supply chains?** |
| 1 | More transparent financial derivative markets |
| 2 | Proper management of forward contracts with growers (Agricultural producers) |
| 3 | Identify links in the supply chain and fair treatment to all links (Transparent systems) |
| 4 | Proper communication of demand and supply |
| 5 | Better application of affordable technologies |

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| **Which industrial sectors are most critical? And what is the rationale for selecting these sectors?** |
| 1 | SMEs (with a proper identification of SMEs) – State sector and large companies should act as supportive customers for SMEs with simplified procurement systems |
| 2 | Tourism sector (with the assurance of the rule of law and environmental protection) |
| 3 | ICT, IT enabled services |
| 4 | Education (As an industry offering educational services to other countries in the region)  |

GQ5 –

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| **Commitments** | **Key industry sectors** | **Finance and investment institutions** |
| 1 | Honouring and reporting on the 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) – with specific timelines – interim and overall | * UNGC should be included in due diligence
* Gradual increase of lending to sustainable industries
* Ambitious lending targets based on the current reality
 |
| 2 | Board committee focusing on sustainability goals |  |

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| **Responsible principles** | **Key industry sectors** | **Finance and investment institutions** |
| 1 | Responsible consumption and production | Insisting on environmental and social safeguards (Consumer protraction insurance) |

GQ6 –

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|  | **What are the decent green jobs of the future?** |
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| **New skills needed**  | **Business** | **Government** | **Academia**  |
| 1 | To manage businesses, finance, and growth/development (For entrepreneurs, freelancers, knowledge workers) | * Open mindedness and flexibility
* Biased to action
* Project management
 | Critical and analytical thinking and synthesis |
| 2 | For digital marketing |
| 3 | Data driven decision making |
| 4 | Applying scientific methods |

Meeting specific question -

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| **What kind of follow-up activities would you like to see?** |
| 1 | Academia and the private sector need direct interactions to understand the needs and roles of each party |
| 2 | Open and honest effort on depoliticization of institutions – including regulators |

Leadership Dialogue 3: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development– (assigned to Group 3)Group 3 suggested the following inputs under each GQ, for which the other participants provided suggestions (see below) which were incorporated to finalize the overall inputs – GQ1 -

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|  | **What are the biggest challenges?** |
| 1 | Lack of comprehensive approach (Sustainability – environmental, social, in addition to economy) in appraisals |
| 2 | Lack of implementation and follow up (Monitoring, evaluation)  |
| 3 | Limited knowledge and capacity (Competencies)  |
| 4 | Inadequate resources (Finance, technology) for implementation  |
| 5 | Lack of overarching and consistent policy framework and flows/integration of goals, targets strategic level to operational level |
| 6 | Lack of collaborations between stakeholders  |

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|  | **How do we create an enabling environment?**  |
| 1 | * Establish multi-stakeholder mobilization (Engagement, empowerment, and consultation) platform with regular engagement
* Multi-stakeholder partnerships
 |
| 2 | * Accessibility and affordability of the solutions/options (For both individual and institutional levels)
 |
| 3 | * Introduce and implement “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)” concepts to formal education (Circular)
* Integrate informal/non-formal education tools/modes into formal education
 |
| 4 | * Establish Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) framework in programme development, and implementation and a central database platform to record and share the information (with a quality assurance scheme)
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GQ2 -

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|  | **Good practices**  | **Pathways**  |
| 1 | Assistance and guidance provided by the government in climate action (e.g.: Sri Lanka Climate Fund)  | * Introduce a similar mechanism/framework for holistic waste management and other environment sectors
 |
| 2 | Introduction of sustainability concepts into school curricula (e.g.: MAS Eco Go Beyond Sustainable Education Programme)  | * Introduce it in the formal education curricula
* Explore the opportunities to engage the private sector to support sustainability education programmes
 |
| 3 | Self-sustaining concepts/projects with involvement of beneficiaries (e.g.: Hayleys Puritas Sath Diyawara) | * Ensure the consideration of sustainability (self-sustaining) in the project development and implementation
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GQ3 -

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|  | **How to transform governance systems?** |
| 1 | Establishment of proper and regular monitoring and supervision systems (Particularly at the national level with adequate mandates)  |
| 2 | Ensure accountability and transparency (Good governance) |

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|  | **How to transform legal systems?** |
| 1 | Mandate Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) |
| 2 | Awareness and education on laws and regulations for all stakeholders, including the general public |

GQ4 -

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|  | **What measures are needed to align public, private and development finance?** |
| 1 | Introduce policy and regulatory frameworks to facilitate PPP models |
| 2 | Awareness/guidelines on partnerships (Roles and responsibilities, modes of finance, business models) |
| 3 | Disseminate information on availability of specific financial and other resources for projects/partnerships  |

GQ5 –

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|  | **What type of partnerships from the UN and beyond are needed?** |
| 1 | Networking with regional and international parties (Seminars, workshops, conventions etc.) – For non-government stakeholders including private sector |
| 2 | Establishment of partnerships between local universities with international universities on sustainability research, educational, training programmes – so that local stakeholders have easy access to global resources |
| 3 | Exchange programmes to share the expertise  |

GQ6 –

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|  | **Capacities**  | **Technologies** |
| 1 | Interpersonal, social, leadership skills | ICT/Digital transformation |
| 2 | Negotiation skills (e.g.: climate negotiation) |  |
| 3 | Empathy, diversity  |  |
| 4 | Inclusivity  |  |

Meeting specific question -

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| **What kind of follow-up activities would you like to see?** |
|  | Could not cover due to time constraints  |

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