

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL OF SRI LANKA

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About the Sustainable Development Council

The Sustainable Development Council (SDCSL) was established in terms of Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Act, No. 19 of 2017, as the nodal government institution with responsibilities for coordination, facilitation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Sri Lanka.

Vision

A sustainably developed Sri Lanka for all

Mission

Promoting Sri Lanka towards a sustainably developed nation through an inclusive and holistic approach that ensures environmental, social and economic harmony.

Core Values

- **Accountability:** Ensuring transparency and responsibility in all actions and decisions.
 - **Inclusivity:** Promoting participation of all sectors and stakeholders to achieve equitable and sustainable development.
 - **Innovation:** Embracing and promoting new ideas, approaches, and technologies to advance sustainable development.
 - **Transparency:** Committing to open and clear communication, ensuring that our processes and outcomes are accessible to all.
 - **Sustainability:** Upholding the principles of sustainability in all actions, balancing the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.
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Board of Directors

2023

Leadership

Chairperson

Mr. K.M.M.Sriwardhana

Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic
Stabilization and National Policies
(Since 10.06.2022)

Director General

Ms.Chamindry Saparamadu

(Since 02.11.2020)

Members of the Sustainable Development Council

Prof. I.A.U.N. Gunathilaka

Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya
(Since 01-03-2021)

Prof. D. M. S. Hemanthi Kariyawasam Ranasinghe

Department of Forestry & Environmental Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura
(Since 01-03-2021)

Dr. Ravi Fernando

(Since 01-03-2021)

Snr Prof. E. Dayaratne (Retired)

Senior Consultant, Department of Commerce, Faculty of Management Studies and
Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (Since 15.08.2022)

Snr Prof. Mayura Samarakoon

Department of Sociology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (Since 15.08.2022)

Mr. R.Umakanthan

Deputy Chief Secretary (Planning), Northern Provincial Council
(From 15.08.2022 to 14.08.2023)

Mr. K.G.S. Nishshanka

Deputy Chief Secretary (Planning), Central Provincial Council
(From 15.08.2022 to 14.08.2023)

Mr. W.M.N Weerasinghe

Deputy Chief Secretary (Planning), Uva Provincial Council
(From 16-08-2023 to 15-08-2024)

Mr.N.G.Dayarathne

Director (Planning), Chief Ministry, North Central Province,
(From 16-08-2023 to 15-08-2024)

Mr. M.A Munazir

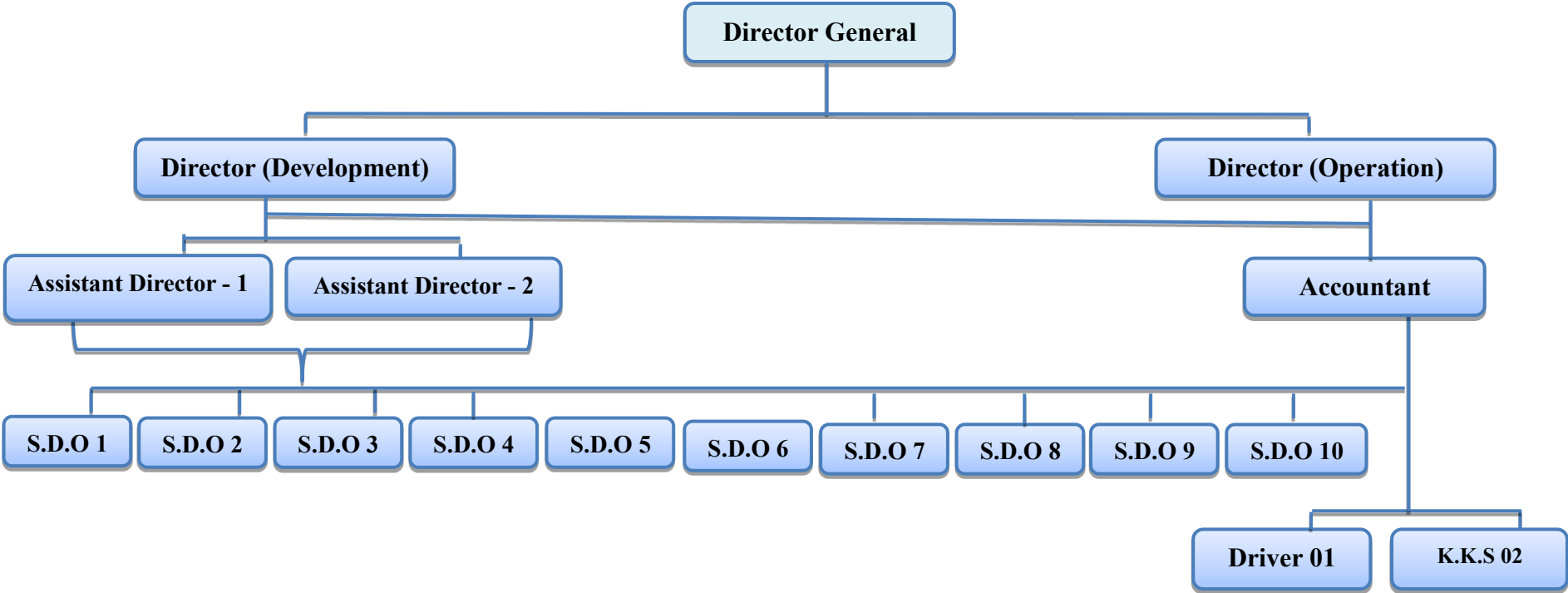
Deputy Director (Planning), Provincial Planning Secretariat, Eastern Provincial Council
(From 16-08-2023 to 15-08-2024)

Representation of Secretary to the President

Dr. Sulakshana Jayawardana

Additional Secretary to the President
(From 15-09-2023 to 31-12-2023)

Organization Structure



Organogram

The Sustainable Development Council (SDCSL) is expected to operate through a well-defined organizational framework, strategically designed to ensure efficiency in the coordination and execution of its mandates. The SDCSL secretariat was structured into two primary divisions, each tasked with specific responsibilities:

1. Development Division

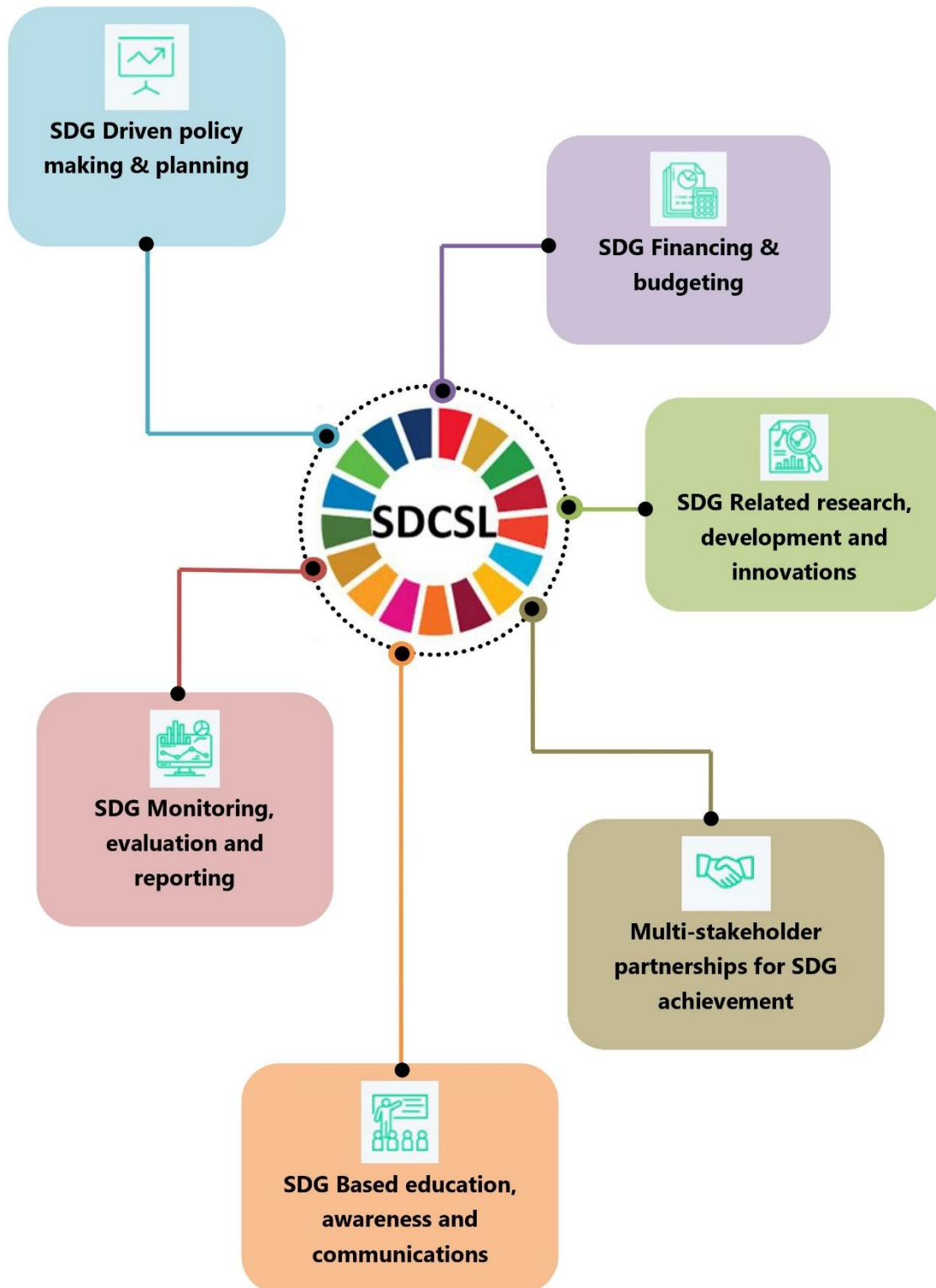
- Develops and integrates SDG-aligned policies, frameworks, and action plans at both national and provincial levels.
- Facilitates the alignment of sectorial strategies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Supports develop the sustainable development landscape in Sri Lanka including strengthening governance and coordination mechanism, data driven decision making, sustainable finance ecosystem etc.
- Designs and conducts training programs and workshops to build the capacity of the public sector and private sector.
- Enhances stakeholders' understanding of SDG principles and their practical application.
- Promotes sustainability and inclusivity principles and standards across the public and private sectors.
- Tracks progress on SDG implementation through robust monitoring frameworks.
- Prepares detailed progress reports for national and international stakeholders.

2. Operations Division

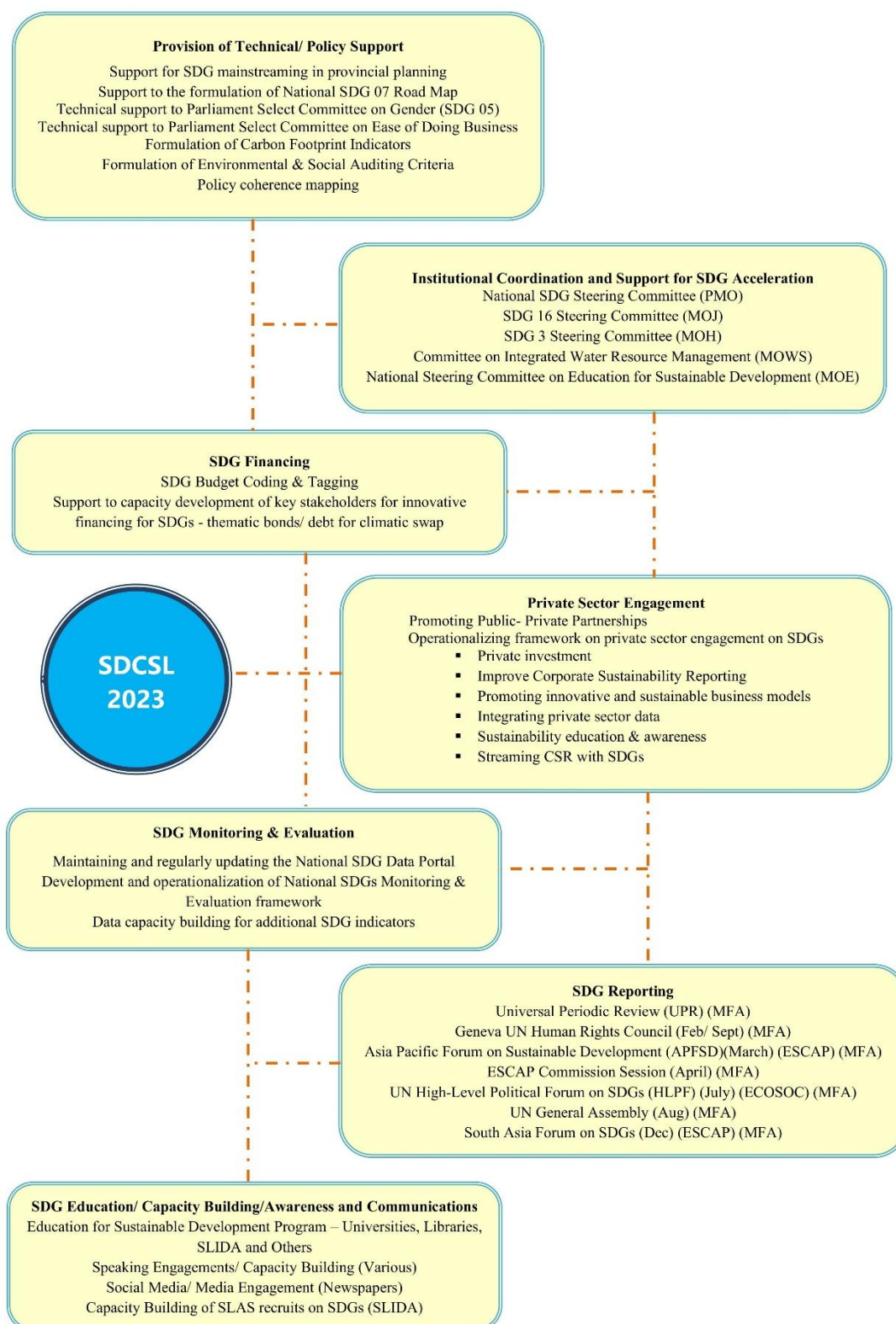
- Oversees day-to-day operations, including financial management, administrative tasks, and logistical support.
 - Ensures effective coordination among stakeholders to streamline administration and finance-related activities.
 - Provides operational support to facilitate the execution of the SDCSL's objectives efficiently and effectively.
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Key Functions of the Organization

The Sustainable Development Council (SDCSL) of Sri Lanka serves as the central coordinating body for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the nation. Its key functions are as follow



Action Plan 2023



01. Technical/Policy Support

In 2023, the Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka (SDCSL) provided technical and policy support towards identifying national Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets and strengthening SDG-based planning at national and provincial levels, systematizing the follow-up and review process.

The process of identifying and finalizing national SDGs targets involved a comprehensive and collaborative approach. Guidelines along with templates were disseminated to 21 ministries, resulting in responses from 20 ministries that included proposed SDG target values. Through close coordination with these line ministries, over 180 national SDG target values were identified and finalized, culminating in the development of the National SDG Target Framework. Additionally, a thorough mapping of more than 150 national and sectoral policies was conducted to ensure alignment with the SDGs, reinforcing the country's commitment to sustainable development.

In addition, continuous technical and research support was provided to key Parliamentary Committees, including the Sectorial Oversight Committee to Alleviate the Impact of the Economic Crisis and the Select Committee on Ease of Doing Business, with active engagement in seven committee meetings. Contributions were also made to several technical review processes, such as the SDG 16 Action Plan of the Ministry of Justice, the Mid-Term Review of SDG 4 led by the National Education Commission, the validation of the Sustainability Framework for Sri Lanka Tourism, the development of the National Human Resource Development Policy spearheaded by the National Human Resource Development Council, and the preparation of a disaster risk reduction submission formats.

At the sub-national level, a workshop was conducted for the Western Provincial Council on SDG integration in Provincial Planning, and a knowledge session was delivered for the Ministry of Education's Division of Research, Innovation, and Science. A guidebook on mainstreaming SDGs into provincial planning and development was developed and finalized with inputs from the Finance Commission and Provincial Council representatives of the SDCSL. Additionally, the drafting of an SDG-based planning framework for Provincial Councils was initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Administration.

Active participation in national and global dialogues played a key role in shaping Sri Lanka's sustainable development agenda. Engagements included the participation at high-level consultations and international processes such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Policy Dialogue on "Rethinking Public Debt for SDGs," the Asian Development Bank (ADB) - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Knowledge Product on "SDG Trajectories in Sri Lanka,". Building on these efforts, a National SDG Integrated Insights Report was generated with the technical support of UNDP Sri Lanka, which identified SDG acceleration pathways for Sri Lanka and contributed to preparing the Sri Lanka delegation in the deliberations of the UN General Assembly sessions and the SDG Summit in New York in August 2023.

Contributions were also made to the development of the UNDP's SDG Taxation and Gender Taxation Frameworks, and ADB's Country Cooperation Strategy for Sri Lanka. Further participation in policy and planning processes included the European Union (EU) Green Recovery Stakeholder Consultations led by the Ministry of Environment and the EU, and the Centre for a Smart Future's dialogue on innovative financing for marine conservation.

Several innovative concepts and project proposals were developed and advanced to promote sustainable development. Collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Sri Lanka focused on securing financial support for implementing Carbon Footprint Indicators. Contributions were also made to the Green Temple Concept, which identified 1,000 religious sites for potential solar panel installations and the projects key components were also integrated into the Presidential Secretariat's Climate Prosperity Plan. Additionally, a proposal was submitted to the SDG Acceleration Pavilion exhibition at the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), which was selected for exhibition. Exhibition materials were co-developed with the Presidential Secretariat for the event, showcasing Sri Lanka's innovative sustainability initiatives.

Cross-sectoral technical collaborations were actively pursued through participation in various committees and initiatives. Membership was held on the Board of Governors of the CITRA Social Innovation Lab, and contributions were made as a member of review committees for the Teacher's Guidebook on Marine Plastic Pollution Prevention. Further engagements included participation in the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) Sub-Committee, jointly led by the Ministry of Labor and the ILO, focused on developing an Employment Recovery Strategy. Technical inputs were regularly provided to the VNET Steering Committee convened by UN Volunteers.

Additional involvement included the UNDP-led Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) process, stakeholder meetings on City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) organized by the Centre for Environment Justice, and the formulation of a concept paper for the China-

Indian Ocean Region Forum on Development Cooperation at the request of the Department of External Resources (ERD).

Ongoing data and policy monitoring efforts focused on enhancing evidence-based decision-making and tracking of SDG progress. A dynamic database of policy initiatives from ministries and state institutions was maintained to support continuous analysis. Support was also extended to the country assessment led by the Ministry of Buddhasasana and Cultural Affairs on the implementation of UN Resolution 76/214 concerning Culture and Sustainable Development. Additionally, SDG gap areas were identified, and draft recommendations were formulated and referred to line ministries to address these gaps.

Technical support and engagement were sustained across multiple initiatives to strengthen national policy coherence and alignment with the SDGs.





02. Institutional Coordination and Support for SDG Acceleration

In 2023, SDCSL significantly strengthened institutional coordination mechanisms and enhanced its support for SDG acceleration through active participation, facilitation, and technical guidance across key sectors. In its ongoing efforts to promote cohesive and effective SDG implementation, the SDCSL convened the National SDG Steering Committee (Officials Meeting) on 19th May 2023, under the chairmanship of the Secretary to the Prime Minister. The meeting served as a platform to review national progress on key SDG actions, assess performance in the health sector, and outline future priorities for achieving the SDGs. This high-level engagement reaffirmed the government's commitment to coordinated and results-driven SDG implementation.

A significant milestone in sector-specific engagement was the establishment of the SDG 9 Task Force under the Ministry of Industries. This initiative began with a high-level dialogue involving the Minister and Secretary of the Ministry of Industries, followed by the development of a comprehensive concept note. With facilitation from SDCSL, institutional representatives were nominated, and the task force was officially formed. The task force has since identified relevant SDG and national targets and supported the creation of an SDG-aligned Action Plan for the industrial sector. Building on this momentum, SDG-aligned planning is also being expanded into other key sectors, including transport and innovation.

To further institutionalize SDG coordination across government institutions, SDCSL supported the expansion of the SDG Focal Points Network, enabling ministries to better integrate SDG priorities into their respective mandates and enhance cross-sectoral collaboration. The SDCSL also extended continuous support to several sectoral steering committees and platforms, such as the Ministry of Health's SDG 3 Steering Committee, the Integrated Water Resource Management Committee under the Ministry of Water Supply, the National Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Drinking Water and Sanitation (WATSAN), and the National Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development. Strategic and technical support was also provided to the National Volunteering Network (VNET) Steering Committee.

In the area of data coordination, the SDCSL responded to directives from the National SDG Steering Committee by working with sectoral ministries to identify data needs and improve data systems. Consultations were initiated with the Department of Census and Statistics to enhance SDG data collection frameworks. These efforts are essential for informed decision-making and monitoring progress.

Together, these initiatives underscore the SDCSL's leadership in fostering coherent, integrated, and inclusive SDG implementation across sectors. By supporting institutional coordination, sectoral planning, and data-driven policy formulation, the SDCSL continues to play a pivotal role in guiding Sri Lanka toward sustainable and equitable development.



03. SDG Financing

SDCSL made notable progress in aligning national financing frameworks with the SDGs in 2023. Central to these efforts was the development and implementation of a robust SDG Budget Coding and Tagging system, designed to integrate SDG priorities into public financial planning.

A comprehensive methodology for SDG Budget Coding and Tagging was developed and shared with the Technical Committee established for the purpose and stakeholders, followed by a capacity-building programme for Treasury Departments and Finance Commission officials. The SDCSL mapped over 6,300 budget lines from the 2022 national budget against SDG targets, finalized a classification system in consultation with the Technical Evaluation Committee and UNDP, and incorporated it into the 2024 Budget Circular. Targeted training sessions were delivered to more than 90 SDG focal points, and budget tagging templates were completed for 21 out of 29 key ministries, marking a foundational step in institutionalizing SDG-aligned budgeting across government agencies.

Beyond public finance, the SDCSL also advanced efforts to align private sector investment with the SDGs. The SDCSL played a pivotal role in finalizing and launching the SDG Investor Map Sector Deep Dive Report, which identified opportunities and barriers to investor activation in key sectors such as healthcare, infrastructure, and consumer goods. These findings were presented in targeted sessions to build strategic investor pipelines and inform the development of a roadmap for sustainable investment. The SDCSL further emphasized the critical role of private finance in achieving the SDGs in the findings of Sri Lanka's Voluntary National Review (VNR).

In the area of innovative green financing, the SDCSL contributed to the drafting of Sri Lanka's Sovereign Green Bond Framework and worked closely with the Green Finance Committee under the President's Office. Strategic support was provided for Debt-for-Nature Swaps (DFNS) and Debt-for-Climate Swaps (DFCS) discussions by coordinating between the President's Office and UNESCAP consultants, linking these initiatives to broader development objectives. In parallel, coordination efforts with UNDP supported the integration of energy-sector financing into the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF).

On the regional and international stage, the SDCSL enabled Sri Lanka's participation in ESCAP's Infrastructure Financing and Public–Private Partnership (PPP) Network of Asia and the Pacific, providing access to the InfraPPPnet portal for project matchmaking and knowledge exchange. A project concept note was submitted for pitching at the network's 09th meeting in Beijing, reflecting the country's growing presence in global sustainable finance dialogues and its efforts towards mobilizing additional financing for SDGs.

To build institutional and private sector capacity on innovative financing, the SDCSL co-hosted a national training on "Accelerating Sustainable Finance through Private Sector Participation," in August 2023 in collaboration with partners such as UNESCAP, Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and the Luxembourg Green Stock Exchange. This three-day programme engaged banks, insurers, business chambers, and other financial actors. Further partnerships were forged with the IMF to include Sri Lanka in the global SDG Financing Tool (SDG FIT), which supports countries in aligning macroeconomic policy with long-term SDG financing needs. Participation in the Feminist Finance Forum also highlighted a commitment to gender-sensitive financing strategies.

Additionally, the SDCSL continued working with the Sustainable Banking Initiative, University of Colombo, and UNDP BIOFIN to develop academic training modules on sustainable finance.

Collectively, these efforts underscore the SDCSL's leadership in building the country's sustainable finance eco-system through fostering cross-sector collaboration, and building the institutional architecture and capacities to support long-term development financing. By bridging public and private finance and leveraging international partnerships, the SDCSL is laying the groundwork for a more sustainable and resilient economic future for Sri Lanka.



04. Private Sector Engagement for Sustainable Development

In 2023, the SDCSL significantly advanced its efforts to strengthen private sector engagement in support of SDGs. Through strategic consultations, technical collaborations, and multi-stakeholder platforms, the SDCSL fostered an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable enterprises. A key milestone was linking the members of the Steering Committee to Promote Private Sector Engagement on SDGs with national policy and industry platforms, including engagement with the Select Committee of Parliament on improving Sri Lanka's Ease of Doing Business Index. Notably, a dedicated session with the Ministry of Industries enabled Steering Committee members to directly present challenges related to export-sector inspection and certification processes. The SDCSL also drafted and finalized a work plan with a timeline for advancing private sector engagement on the SDGs, developed in consultation with Steering Committee members.

The SDCSL maintained regular dialogue with international partners such as ESCAP's Trade, Investment, and Innovation Division to explore the development of Public–Private Partnership (PPP) guidelines for green infrastructure and inclusive business models. At the national level, the SDCSL played a facilitative role in revising the National Green Reporting System (NGRS) through consultations between the Ministry of Environment and private sector stakeholders. This resulted in an agreement to incorporate a new column into existing sustainability reporting formats, aligned with the NGRS. The updated format will be widely disseminated by the UN Global Compact Network Sri Lanka (UNGC). Additionally, proposals for labor law amendments, based on private sector feedback, were submitted to the Ministry of Labor, further strengthening the SDCSL's role in policy advocacy.

The SDCSL also expanded its focus on sustainability in education and innovation by mapping ongoing initiatives within universities and engaging the University Grants Commission (UGC) to support curriculum development under the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI).

Promoting inclusive and sustainable enterprises remained a core priority. The SDCSL collaborated closely with ESCAP to explore technical support opportunities and mobilized USD 25,000 in seed funding for an exploratory mission to assess national priorities and shape a private sector development strategy. This mission involved extensive stakeholder consultations, including ministries, development partners, and

private sector actors. Based on these inputs, a draft Strategy for the Promotion of Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises was developed and finalized through a cross-sectoral consultative process. To support the implementation of this strategy, the SDCSL initiated consultations with a range of development partners—including UNDP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), ADB, International Finance Corporation (IFC), EU, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), JICA, and GGGI, to explore collaborative opportunities.

Policy Advocacy and knowledge-sharing were also prioritized, with the SDCSL co-hosting the high-level Inclusive and Sustainable Business Forum on 27 September in partnership with UNESCAP. This forum validated the strategy and brought together senior policymakers, industry leaders, and development partners. Further outreach included a webinar titled "How ESG and SDGs Impact Your Business" held in collaboration with the Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce, which attracted over 100 MSME participants. In addition, the SDCSL provided technical support for assessing the 'Contributor to Sustainable Development in Exports' category of the Presidential Export Awards hosted by the Export Development Board, highlighting excellence in sustainable business practices.

Collectively, these initiatives underscore the SDCSL's expanding leadership in promoting sustainable private sector development. By bridging gaps between policy, industry, and academia, the SDCSL is actively shaping a more inclusive, responsible, and SDG-aligned private sector ecosystem in Sri Lanka.







05. SDG Monitoring & Evaluation

In 2023, the SDCSL made significant progress in strengthening its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems to support more effective implementation and tracking of the SDGs. A major achievement was the ongoing enhancement of the National SDG Data Portal, which up to 2022, has expanded to include 157 indicators aligned with national targets. This included the integration of 40 new indicators, reflecting the SDCSL's commitment to comprehensive, up-to-date data for decision-making.

Complementing the data portal, the SDCSL developed the Sri Lanka SDG Dashboard in collaboration with UNESCAP, integrating both national and global data for enhanced monitoring. The dashboard was embedded into the SDCSL website to increase public access and transparency. To expand its reach and utility, the SDCSL initiated targeted outreach to government institutions, provincial councils, academia, research organizations, and the private sector, encouraging wider use of this tool for evidence-based planning.

In parallel, the SDCSL began developing a national SDG Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to establish a clear structure for tracking progress. This framework identified key data sources, reporting frequencies, and institutional responsibilities for each national target. With technical support from UNESCAP, a draft version of the 2023–2024 framework was prepared and validated, marking a crucial step in institutionalizing a robust SDG M&E system.

Capacity-building played a vital role in these efforts. The SDCSL organized a national knowledge-sharing session on the SDG Data Management System for diverse stakeholders, including government, civil society, academia, and international agencies. Specialized training was also provided to SDG Data Focal Points to strengthen their capacity in data management, validation, and reporting.

Further strengthening indicator-level reporting, the SDCSL updated the SDG Indicator Status Report, now covering 157 indicators with corresponding national targets. Prioritized environmental data were compiled and validated through a multi-stakeholder process for indicators such as 15.4.1 (Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity) and 15.4.2 (Mountain Green Cover Index by elevation class). The SDCSL also collaborated with the Ministry of Water Supply and

other agencies to compile data for indicator 6.5.1 on integrated water resources management.

Internationally, Sri Lanka's efforts were showcased at the Regional Workshop on "Evidence-Based Follow-Up and Review for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," held in Bangkok in July 2023. The SDCSL's presentation on the national SDG target-setting process highlighted the country's data-driven approach and its emphasis on inclusive, evidence-based monitoring.

Collectively, these advancements have strengthened Sri Lanka's ability to monitor and evaluate SDG progress accurately and transparently. By enhancing data systems, building institutional capacity, and engaging with regional platforms, the SDC has laid a strong foundation for more effective policy planning, implementation, and accountability in the years ahead.





06. SDG Reporting

In 2023, the SDCSL played a pivotal role in strengthening the country's international and regional engagement on sustainable development. One of the key contributions was supporting Sri Lanka's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The SDCSL assisted in preparing for the UPR session and compiled progress updates on the implementation of recommendations accepted during Sri Lanka's 4th UPR cycle, ensuring alignment with the SDG framework and international commitments.

The SDCSL also provided high-level inputs to support Sri Lanka's diplomatic engagement at global forums. This included drafting statements for the Permanent Representative to the UN for events such as the 8th International Day of Women and Girls in Science and the 61st session of the UN Commission for Social Development. Additionally, the SDCSL contributed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' response to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, reaffirming Sri Lanka's commitment to democratic governance and SDG 16.

At the regional level, the SDCSL actively participated in the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), where it co-chaired a session and contributed to discussions on regional SDG progress. It also reviewed Sri Lanka's position papers for international conferences such as the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

Supporting high-level national representation, the SDCSL drafted key materials for the Prime Minister's participation in UN Vesak Day celebrations in Thailand, emphasizing the connection between Buddhism and sustainable development. The SDCSL also prepared talking points and briefed the Prime Minister for meetings with senior UN officials, including the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. Inputs were compiled for the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in evaluating the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC) in Sri Lanka, highlighting the impact and scope of UN assistance.

The SDCSL facilitated Sri Lanka's participation in various UN events, including the 79th session of ESCAP, where it supported the Ministry of Environment in preparing remarks on climate financing. For the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the SDCSL developed briefing materials for Sri Lanka's national statement, delivered by the

Permanent Representative to the UN. It also prepared strategic inputs for the President's bilateral meeting with the UN Secretary-General during the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris.

Ahead of the 2023 SDG Summit and the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, the SDCSL coordinated inputs, logistics, and drafted the President's statements. At the Seventh South Asia Forum on Sustainable Development in Kathmandu, the SDCSL prepared the country statement and supported Sri Lanka's participation in the VNR clinic, ensuring effective representation and coordination.

Further, the SDCSL contributed to the discussions of the Sustainable Development Transformation Forum in South Korea, preparing a strategic note on national SDG initiatives. It also supported participation in the Sixth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit and Regional Investment Forum in Bali, providing backstopping and logistical assistance.

Through these engagements, the SDCSL has reinforced its role as a key facilitator of Sri Lanka's global and regional presence in sustainable development dialogues, ensuring that national efforts are effectively represented, strategically aligned, and informed by international best practices.



07. SDG Education & Capacity Building/Awareness & Communication

Education and Capacity Building: In 2023, SDCSL significantly expanded its educational and outreach activities to deepen the understanding of SDGs across academic and public sectors. The SDCSL delivered focused lectures on sustainable development, climate change and earth jurisprudence to final-year law students at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, and served as a resource person at an SDG-based planning and KPI workshop organized by the Institute of Labour Studies. Youth engagement was strengthened through an SDG 6 session at the Sarvodaya-hosted SDG Model School, while public-sector officials—most notably Sri Lanka Customs officers—participated in a dedicated SDG induction programs. Academically, the SDCSL provided technical expertise to the Open University of Sri Lanka in developing its new BSc (Honours) programme in Environmental Science and Sustainable Development and offered substantive inputs to student research projects at the University of Colombo and the University of Sabaragamuwa. Additionally, as part of the UNDESA–Partnering Initiative’s global Partnership Accelerator campaign, the SDCSL responded to a key-informant interview, contributing case insights for the forthcoming UN report on effective multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs.

Workshops and Partnerships: Capacity-building was further advanced through high-profile collaborative workshops and partnerships. In June 2023, the SDCSL co-organized a two-day National Capacity Building Workshop on Digital Government Transformation together with the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), and the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office. This workshop focused on accelerating digital governance reforms to support Sri Lanka’s emerging Digital Economy Policy. Complementing this, the SDCSL provided public-sector training on digital governance best practices under the UNPOG/UN DESA framework. Pursuing innovation and global competitiveness, the SDCSL leveraged a newly signed MoU with the National Innovation Agency to develop a joint work plan for improving digital platforms and boosting Sri Lanka’s standings in global indices such as the Global Innovation Index. The SDCSL also engaged in multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues: it participated in a UNDESA/UNRCO “Partnership Accelerator” high-level event, where it prepared government presentations (including the State Minister of Finance’s keynote address and a panel on Sri Lanka’s Voluntary National Review findings) and contributed to a forthcoming UN report on effective SDG partnerships. Further emphasizing the importance of policy coherence, the SDCSL delivered a panel presentation at a joint workshop by the Centre for Poverty Analysis and Stockholm Environment Institute, highlighting how national policy objectives can be aligned internally and externally with the SDGs.



Awareness, Communication and Outreach: Communications and public engagement were a major focus area of work. The SDCSL maintained active social media channels to highlight key sustainability events and observances (such as Youth Skills Day, World Ocean Day, World Food Safety Day, World Environment Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, National Road Safety Week and Earth Day) and to share regular updates on national SDG progress. It also reached broader audiences through mainstream and digital media: producing newspaper articles on inclusive and sustainable business models, volunteerism, and sustainable financing; publishing official commentary on budgeting with an article on preparing an SDG-aligned national budget for 2024; and extending digital outreach by participating in a UNDP "Tax for SDGs" podcast, recording an exclusive interview on promoting green

growth in agriculture for the Presidential Secretariat's International Climate Change Forum, and co-authoring an op-ed (with UNDP's Resident Representative) on Sri Lanka's Integrated SDG Insights Report. The SDCSL experts also engaged internationally, at the Adaptation Futures 2023 conference in Canada presenting the "Critical Success Factors in Designing and Implementing Sustainable Finance Instruments in Asia-Pacific and Sri Lanka." A highlight of the year was the SDCSL's hosting of the National Forum on "Sri Lanka's Sustainable Development Trajectories & Pathways" on 29 August under the patronage of the President and the Prime Minister, featuring a presentation of Sri Lanka's SDG progress, the integrated analysis and the launch of the new National SDG Dashboard. In conjunction with these activities, the SDCSL pursued recognition for its innovative programs by compiling and submitting an application for the 2023 UN SDG Action Award for its "Green Temples" community sustainability initiative.



**Sustainable Development Council
Financial Statement for the
Year ended 31st December 2023**

**No.35, 2nd Floor, Lake House Building,
D.R.Wijewardena Mw, Colombo 10**

Sustainable Development Council
Financial Statement for the
Year ended 31st December 2023



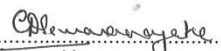
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D.R. Wijewardena Mw, Colombo 10

**Sustainable Development Council
Statement of Financial Performance
For The Year Ended 31.12.2023**

	Note	2023 (Rs)	2022 (Rs)
Income			
Treasury Receipt	1	23,407,000	21,270,000
Add : Other Income		10,000	311,276
		23,417,000	21,581,276
Less:- Expenditure			
1. Personal Emoluments	2	15,918,471	11,010,409
2.Travelling & Subsistence	3	457,470	-
3.Supplies Expenditure	4	958,136	645,248
4.Maintenace	5	451,446	86,640
5.Services Expenditure	6	3,334,612	1,779,584
6. Other miscellaneous	7	1,765,766	1,252,764
7.Sustainable Development Projects		-	1,117,440
Total operating Expenditure		22,885,902	15,892,085
Net Surplus /(Deficit) for the period		531,098	5,689,191
Balance as at 01.01.2023		14,808,735	9,119,544
Cumulative Surplus /(Deficit) at the end of the period		15,339,833	14,808,735



Y.D. Gamage 2024.02.08
Accountant



Chamindry Saparamadu
Director General

Accountant
Sustainable Development Council
No. 35,
2nd Floor, Lake House Building,
D.R. Wijewardena Mw, Colombo 10.

Director General
Sustainable Development Council
No. 35, 2nd Floor, Lake House Building,
D.R. Wijewardena Mw, Colombo 10

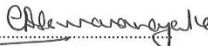
**Sustainable Development Council
Statement of Financial Position**

As at 31/12/2023

	Note	2023 (Rs.)	2022 (Rs.)
ASSETS			
Non Current Assets			
Property Plant & Equipments	8	1,703,233	2,699,431
Total Non current Assets		1,703,233	2,699,431
Current Assets			
Inventory/Stock			
Trade & Receivables			
Pre Payments			
Security Deposits			
Savings Account			
Bank Account		14,339,596	12,900,392
Cash in Hand			
Total Current Assets		14,339,596	12,900,392
TOTAL ASSETS		16,042,829	15,599,823
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	9	244,946	173,048
Other Payables (W&OP)		14,550	2,038
Provision For Audit Fee		443,500	616,000
Security deposits			
Total Current Liabilities		702,996	791,086
Non Current Liabilities			
Provision For Gratuity			
Total Non Current Liabilities			
TOTAL LIABILITIES		702,996	791,086
NET ASSETS / EQUITY			
Government Grant Account			
Reserve Account			
Capital Reserve			
GTZ Grant			
Revaluation Reserve Account			
Surplus Deficit		15,339,833	14,808,737
TOTAL NET ASSETS / EQUITY		16,042,829	15,599,823

The accounting policies on pages 06 to 08 and Notes on Pages 09 to 12 form an integral part of these Financial Statements. The Sustainable Development Council is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these Financial Statements. The Financial Statements were approved as per the decision on 16th September 2022 of the Sustainable Development Council and signed on their behalf.


Y.D. Gamage
Accountant 2024-02-08


Chamindry Saparamadu
Director General


Secretary

Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies
(Chairman, Sustainable Development Council)

K.M.M. Siriwardana
Secretary to the Treasury and
Secretary to the Ministry of Finance,
Economic Stabilization and National Policies
The Secretariat
Colombo 01.

**Sustainable Development Council
Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 31.12.2023**

	Rs.
Balance as at 01.01.2020	5,880,468
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the reporting period	164,414
Balance as at 31.12.2020	<u>6,044,882</u>
Balance as at 01.01.2021	6,044,882
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the reporting period	3,074,662
Balance as at 31.12.2021	<u>9,119,544</u>
Balance as at 01.01.2022	9,119,544
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the reporting period	5,689,193
Balance as at 31.12.2022	<u>14,808,737</u>
Balance as at 01.01.2023	14,808,737
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the reporting period	531,098
Balance as at 31.12.2023	<u>15,339,835</u>

Sustainable Development Council
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31.12.2023

	2023 (Rs.)	2022 (Rs.)
Operational Activities		
Net Surplus /(Deficit) for the period	531,098	5,689,193
Add: Non Cash Expenses		
Depreciation Expenses	996,198	1,132,803
	1,527,296	6,821,996
Changes of Working Capital		
Changes of Receivables		-
Changes of Payables	(88,092)	477,043
Net Cash Outflow Generated from (used for) Operational Activities	1,439,204	7,299,039
Investment Activities		
Acquisition of Non Current Assets	-	-
Financing Activities		
Cash and Bank Balance Increase During The Period	1,439,204	7,299,039
Cash and Bank Balance as at 1st January 2023	12,900,392	5,601,353
Cash Bank Balance as at 31st December 2023	14,339,596	12,900,392

Sustainable Development Council		
Trial Balance as at 31.12.2023		
	DR - Rs	CR - Rs
Sitting Allowances	132,000	
Salaries & Wages	8,763,573	
Over time & holiday payments	-	
Other Allowances	5,573,660	
Pension Contribution 25%	642,098	
EPF 12%	522,436	
Property Loan - Government Contribution	153,306	
ETF 3%	131,398	
Travelling - Domestic	-	
Travelling - Foreign	457,470	
Stationery & Office requisites	958,136	
Fuel	-	
Vehicle Repair	-	
Plant & Machinery - Repair	451,446	
Building & Structure- Repair	-	
Postal & Communication	1,636,125	
Electricity & Water	45,647	
Building Rent	-	
Transport	882,155	
Other Services	770,685	
Other (Miscellaneous)	769,568	
Plant & Machinery Asset	4,177,931	
Furniture and office Equipment-Asset	1,486,086	
Depreciation Reservation		3,960,784
Payable - Transport Expenses		106,895
Payable - Postal & Communication Expenses		3,175
W&OP Payable		14,550
Payable - Other Services		36,705
Government Grant Account		23,407,000
Payable - Electricity & Water		3,701
Cash in bank	14,339,596	
Surplus		14,808,735
Payable -Salaries & Wages		63,870
Payable - Other Allowances		30,600
Provision for Audit fee		443,500
Other Income		10,000
Depreciation	996,198	
Total	42,889,515	42,889,515

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST
DECEMBER 2023**

1. Domicile and Legal Form

The Sustainable Development Council was established under the Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Act No. 19 of 2017 and was formally set up as a legal entity that has started operations from 2019. The Sustainable Development Council is situated in the 2nd Floor of Lake House Building which is located in the address, No. 35, D.R. Wijewardena Mw, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

1.1. Principle Activities and Nature of Operations

Sustainable Development Council is a government agency under the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, that functions in monitoring and evaluating other government agencies working for achieving a sustainably developed Sri Lanka according to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of United Nations.

There is a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets associated with the goals and 230 indicators for improving economic, social and environmental standards of countries. The aim of the Council is to transform Sri Lanka's development process into a sustainable process that ensures an inclusive, thriving, peaceful and environmentally conscious nation both locally and globally.

1.2. Basis of Preparation

Statement of Compliance

The financial statement of the Sustainable Development Council consists with the statement of the financial performance, statement of the financial position, notes to the financial statement. These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards (SLPSAS) for the public entities published jointly by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL) and the Ministry of Finance.

Basis of Measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, unless otherwise stated.

Going Concern

The members of the Council are satisfied that the secretariate has adequate resources to continue its operations in the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the financial statements are prepared based on going concern basis.

1.3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Foreign Currency Transactions

These Financial Statements are presented in Sri Lanka Rupees, which is Secretariate's functional currency. Transaction in foreign currencies is initially recorded at the functional currency rate prevailing at the date of the transaction.

(b) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Subsequent expenditure

Expenditure incurred to replace a component of an item of property, plant and equipment that is accounted for separately, including major inspection and overhaul expenditure, is capitalized. Other subsequent expenditure is capitalized only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the item of property, plant and equipment. All other expenditure is recognized in the statement of financial performance as an expense as incurred.

Depreciation is calculated on the straight - line method using the following rates per annum, based on the estimated useful economic life of the asset. Further no depreciation for the purchasing year.

Furniture and Office Equipment	20%
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The useful life of the assets is reviewed at the beginning of each financial year if expectations are differed from previous estimates changes are made to reflect such changes.

Impairment

Carrying value of property, plant and equipment are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An asset's carrying value is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

(c) Receivables

Receivables are carried at anticipated realizable value. Debtors are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectable are written off during the year in which they are identified.

(d) Liability and Provisions

Liabilities are classified as current liabilities on the statement of financial position are those which fall due for payment on demand or within one year from the date of the statement of the financial position. Non-current liabilities are those balances that fall due for payment after one year from the statement of financial position date.

(e) Employee Benefits**Defined Contribution Plan**

Some employees of the Sustainable Development Council are members of the Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' Trust Fund to which the institute contributes 12% and 3% respectively of such employees' basic wage or salary. Other employees are from central government on secondment basis and the institute contributes 25% of such employees' basic salary to Pension Contributions. Further, on behalf of the employees who had the loan facility from the public servants' property loan scheme, the institute bears the government contribution of the relevant loan interest.

Sustainable Development Council
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31.12.2023

Note - 01

Treasury Receipts

	2023	2022
	Rs.	Rs.
January	1,000,000	940,000
February	1,000,000	2,900,000
March	3,000,000	2,500,000
April	2,400,000	1,000,000
May	1,400,000	1,500,000
June	3,170,000	1,900,000
July	2,417,000	1,900,000
August	2,300,000	1,100,000
September	2,400,000	2,010,000
October	1,400,000	1,710,000
November	1,500,000	810,000
December	1,420,000	3,000,000
	<u>23,407,000</u>	<u>21,270,000</u>

Note -02

Personnel Emoluments

	2023	2022
	Rs.	Rs.
Sitting Allowance	132,000	108,000
Salaries & Wages	8,763,573	6,224,112
Overtime & Holiday Payments	-	5,739
Other Allowances	5,573,660	3,822,331
EPF 12%	522,436	679,361
ETF 3%	131,398	170,865
Pension Contribution	642,098	-
Property Loan - Government Contribution	153,306	-
	<u>15,918,471</u>	<u>11,010,409</u>

Note -03

Travelling & Subsistence

	2023	2022
	Rs.	Rs.
Domestic	-	-
Foreign	457,470	-
	<u>457,470</u>	<u>-</u>

Note -04

Supplies Expenditure

	2023	2022
	Rs.	Rs.
Stationery & Office Requisites	<u>958,136</u>	<u>645,248</u>

**Sustainable Development Council
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31.12.2023**

Note -05**Maintenance Expenditure**

	2023	2022
	Rs.	Rs.
Plant & Machinery	<u>451,446</u>	<u>86,640</u>

Note -06**Services Expenditure**

	2023	2022
	Rs.	Rs.
Postal & Communication	1,636,125	362,029
Electricity & Water	45,647	34,119
Transport	882,155	635,907
Other Services (Excluding Audit Fee)	475,365	439,529
Audit Fee	295,320	308,000
	<u>3,334,612</u>	<u>1,779,584</u>

Note -07**Other Miscellaneous**

	2023	2022
	Rs.	Rs.
Depreciation Expenses	996,198	1,132,803
Other (Miscellaneous)	769,568	119,961
	<u>1,765,766</u>	<u>1,252,764</u>

Sustainable Development Council
Notes to The Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31.12.2023

Note - 08

Property Plant and Equipments

Rs.

Description	Costs		Depreciation		Net Book Value
	Balance as at 1/1/2021	Purchase During The Year 2021	Balance as at 1/1/2021	Depreciation for The Year 2021	Balance as at 31/12/2021
Office Furniture	1,708,430	415,666	341,686	424,819	1,357,591
Desktop Computers	1,342,800	-	268,560	268,560	805,680
Laptop computers	1,293,872	683,029	88,734	395,380	1,492,786
UPS Machines	67,080	-	-	13,416	53,664
LG Refrigerator	52,990	-	-	10,598	42,392
Hard Drives & Pen Drives	30,250	-	-	6,050	24,200
Projector	69,900	-	-	13,980	55,920
Total	4,565,322	1,098,695	698,980	1,132,803	3,832,233

Rs.

Description	Costs		Depreciation		Net Book Value
	Balance as at 1/1/2022	Purchase During The Year 2022	Balance as at 1/1/2022	Depreciation for The Year 2022	Balance as at 31/12/2022
Office Furniture	2,124,096	-	766,505	424,819	932,772
Desktop Computers	1,342,800	-	537,120	268,560	537,120
Laptop computers	1,976,901	-	484,114	395,380	1,097,407
UPS Machines	67,080	-	13,416	13,416	40,248
LG Refrigerator	52,990	-	10,598	10,598	31,794
Hard Drives & Pen Drives	30,250	-	6,050	6,050	18,150
Projector	69,900	-	13,980	13,980	41,940
Total	5,664,017	-	1,831,783	1,132,803	2,699,431

Rs.

Description	Costs		Depreciation		Net Book Value
	Balance as at 1/1/2023	Purchase During The Year 2023	Balance as at 1/1/2023	Depreciation for The Year 2023	Balance as at 31/12/2023
Office Furniture	2,124,096	-	1,191,324	424,819	507,953
Desktop Computers	1,342,800	-	805,680	268,560	268,560
Laptop computers	1,976,901	-	879,494	258,774	838,632
UPS Machines	67,080	-	26,832	13,416	26,832
LG Refrigerator	52,990	-	21,196	10,598	21,196
Hard Drives & Pen Drives	30,250	-	12,100	6,050	12,100
Projector	69,900	-	27,960	13,980	27,960
Total	5,664,017	-	2,964,586	996,198	1,703,233

The depreciation policy of the institute is not to depreciate for the purchasing year of the assets. However, in 2021, depreciation has been calculated mistakenly for the Laptop Computers which are purchased in the same year. (Rs. 683,029 * 20% = Rs. 136,605.71). Accordingly, the excess amount of Rs. 136,605.71 for these Laptop Computers has been adjusted for the depreciation for the year 2023.

**Sustainable Development Council
Notes to The Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31.12.2023**

**Note - 09
Payables**

	2023 Rs.	2022 Rs.
Transport Expenses	106,895	70,064
Postal & Communication Ex.	3,175	19,926
Other Services	36,705	33,801
Electricity & Water	3,701	2,467
Salaries & Wages	63,870	31,490
Other Allowances	30,600	15,300
	<u>244,946</u>	<u>173,048</u>

Auditor General Report 2023

**No.35, 2nd Floor, Lake House Building,
D.R.Wijewardena Mw, Colombo 10**



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தேசிய கணக்காய்வு அலுவலகம்
NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE



මගේ අංකය
எனது இல.
My No.

} TPD/D/SDC/FA/2023/09

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல.
Your No.

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දිනය
திகதி
Date

} 2024 ජූලි 19 දින

Chairman
Sustainable Development Council

Auditor General's Report in terms of Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, on the Financial Statements and Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements of the Sustainable Development Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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I am sending the said report and audited financial statements herewith.

W.P.C. Wickramaratne
Auditor General

Copy to: Secretary - Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies –
F.Y.I.



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தேசிய கணக்காய்வு அலுவலகம்
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} TPD/D/SDC/FA/2023/09

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உமது இல.
Your No.

}

දිනය
திகதி
Date

} 2024 ජූලි 19 දින

Chairman
Sustainable Development Council

Auditor General's Report in terms of Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, on the Financial Statements and Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements of the Sustainable Development Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

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1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The financial statements of the Sustainable Development Council for the year ended 31 December 2023, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023 and the statement of financial performance for the year then ended, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the notes to the financial statements, which include information on significant accounting policies, were audited under my direction in accordance with the provisions of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, read in conjunction with Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971. My report will be tabled in the Parliament in due course in accordance with Article 154 (6) of the Constitution.

In my opinion, except for the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, the financial statements of the Sustainable Development Council present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards.



1.2 Basis for the Qualified Opinion

- (a) Contrary to paragraph 69 of Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standard No.07, the Council's accounting policy 1.3 (b) had stated that "assets are not depreciated in the year of purchase". Furthermore, the depreciation value of Rs. 136,605, which was correctly accounted for in accordance with the standard in the year 2021, was readjusted in the previous year as a correction of an error, and the depreciation value was stated less than that value.
- (b) Although 10 items had been taken by the National COVID- 19 Operations Centre as per the inventory list, they were still shown as assets. An annual inventory survey had not been conducted to verify the physical existence of the property, plant and equipment, which cost Rs. 5,664,017 as at 31 December 2023.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those auditing standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of this report. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

1.3 Other information included in the 2023 report of the Council

Other information means information included in the Council's 2023 Annual Report, which is expected to be provided to me after the date of this audit report, but not included in the financial statements and my audit report thereon. Management is responsible for this other information.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance or opinion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information identified above, when available, and in doing so, consider



whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise.

If, on reading the 2023 Annual Report of the Council, I conclude that there are material misstatements, I shall communicate those matters to those in control for correction. If there are further uncorrected misstatements, they will be included in the report which I will table in the Parliament in due course in accordance with Article 154(6) of the Constitution.

1.4 Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards and for determining such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the ability of the continuity of the Council and for using the continuity basis of accounting and disclosing any matters related to the Council's continued existence unless the management either intends to liquidate the company or in the absence of an alternative, has no alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance have overall responsibility for overseeing the financial reporting process of the Council.

In terms of subsection 16(1) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, the Council is required to maintain proper books and records of its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities to enable it to prepare its annual and interim financial statements.



1.5 Auditor's responsibility for the audit of financial statements

My objectives are to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an audit report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatement. Fraud and error, individually or in the aggregate, can cause material misstatements, the significance of which depends on the economic decisions that users make on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of the audit, I exercised professional judgment and professional skepticism in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. I further,

- in providing basis for the audit opinion expressed, audit procedures were designed and performed to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. The impact of fraud is greater than the impact of material misstatements resulting from misrepresentation because they arise from fraud, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.
 - although not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control, an understanding of internal control was obtained in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.
 - the appropriateness of the accounting policies used, the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made, and the related disclosures made by the management were evaluated.
 - the appropriateness of using the going concern basis of accounting was determined based on the audit evidences obtained regarding whether events or conditions have
-



materially cast doubt on the going concern basis of accounting. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements and, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. However, future events or conditions may cause the going concern to cease.

- the overall presentation of the financial statements including the disclosures, was concluded to be appropriate and fair, including the inclusion of the underlying transactions and events in the structure and content of the financial statements.

I communicate with those charged with governance about significant audit findings, major internal control weaknesses, and other matters identified during my audit.

2. Report on other legal and regulatory requirements.

2.1 The National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018, includes special provisions regarding the following requirements.

2.1.1. As per the requirements of Section 12(a) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018, I have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the audit, except for the impact of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, and, as appears from my examination, proper financial records have been maintained by the Council.

2.1.2. The financial statements of the Council are consistent with the previous year as required by Section 6 (1) (d) (iii) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018.

2.1.3. The recommendations made by me in the previous year, as required by Section 6 (1) (d) (iv) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018, are included in the financial statements presented.



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நேசிய கணக்காய்வு அலுவலகம்
NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

- 2.2 Based on the procedures followed and the evidence obtained and limited to the quantitative aspects, nothing came to my attention that warrants the following statement.
- 2.2.1. As per the requirement of Section 12 (d) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018, any member of the Governing Body of the Council has a direct or indirect relationship with the Council in relation to any agreement entered into by the Council, outside the ordinary course of business.
- 2.2.2. That the requirement of Section 12 (e) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018 has not been complied with any relevant written law or other general or special directions issued by the Governing Body of the Council.
- 2.2.3. That the powers, functions and duties of the Council have not been carried out in accordance with the requirement of Section 12 (g) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018, except for the following observations.

Powers, duties and functions

In accordance with Section 10 (b) of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Act, No. 19 of 2017, the National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development should be prepared after consulting and agreeing with all relevant parties and the nine Provincial Councils and submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

Observations

Although more than 4 years had passed by the date of this report, the National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development, which is a fundamental task mentioned in the Act, had not been prepared and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval.



2.2.4. That the resources of the Council have not been procured and utilized economically, efficiently and effectively within the time limits in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations as required by Section 12 (h) of the National Audit Act, No.19 of 2018.

2.3. Other matters

Due to the receipt of funds from the Treasury without adequate assessment of the financial needs of the Council, a cash balance of more than Rs.12 million, or 52 percent of the total receipts, had been maintained idle in the current account throughout the year.

W.P.C.Wickramarathne

Auditor General