

Policy Outlines

Developed by the Programme for
Formulating Sound National Policies

These policy outlines were formulated by over 100 academics, public officials and professionals, through an inter-disciplinary workshop. These outlines are an initial step in a 5 year programme for recommending sound national policy frameworks for Sri Lanka.

August 2015

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PREFACE

It is widely accepted today, that various problems in modern societies cannot be effectively dealt with, unless governments – both individually and collectively – adopt and implement sound evidence-based national policies. Though issues in some areas, such as the economy, climate change and organized crime, require international cooperation across states, most other issues can be addressed at a national level. These include a whole range of subject areas, such as transport, health, education and energy.

In view of the recent political transition in Sri Lanka towards greater democracy and good governance, public demand for sound national policies in diverse sectors has increased considerably. It is widely felt that the concepts of democracy and good governance remain largely abstract ideas for a majority of people in the country, unless the democratic space is widened and used to promote evidence-based national policies to address various issues they face on a day-to-day basis, such as poverty, the lack of decent employment, poor transportation, environmental pollution, crime and violence.

It is against the above background that a group of far-sighted academics, enlightened senior citizens, public servants, civil society leaders and members of the business community came together to articulate the view that the political leaders in this country should move away from short-term populist measures to appease their supporters and actively promote the development and implementation of sound policies. The launch of the Campaign for Sound National Policies (CSNP) in Colombo on the 22nd of June 2015 under the patronage of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka was the culmination of the efforts undertaken over several months prior to the event. Addressing the launch ceremony, the President invited intellectuals and others with knowledge and experience in diverse fields to contribute to the development of public policies and submit them to the political leaders in the country. The two-day workshop that followed the launch of the campaign brought together a large number of experts and others to deliberate on a number of selected policy areas and propose broad policy frameworks, based on a format prepared prior to the workshop. The policy frameworks developed by the participants in diverse groups were presented at a plenary session that followed for further discussion. The working group coordinators were then asked to finalize the documents, in consultation with the other group members, in the next two weeks, to be considered for inclusion in a composite document on policy outlines to be published and circulated among various stakeholders prior to the parliamentary elections scheduled for the 17th of August 2015, in order to facilitate wider public discussion and debate among political party leaders and others.

Policy development and implementation constitutes a long-term and a continuing process. It also involves multiple stakeholders. Moreover, policy development efforts are not entirely new, as there have been prior attempts, however isolated and uncoordinated these might have been. The groups that were convened on the 22nd of June 2015 were not only mindful of the above fact but also took into account past policies in some of the areas. What we have put together in this publication reflects past deliberations on national policies as well. Nevertheless, many policy groups have broken new ground, taking into consideration new developments and new evidence in their respective fields.

The main objective of the efforts made so far is to set the stage for detailed policy development in the already selected subject areas. The next stage of policy development is more complex and wide ranging, involving a greater number of stakeholders, in particular the relevant state institutions, the general public and the political decision-makers. We, as the members of the Programme for Formulating Sound National Policies, perceive our role as one of facilitation. We are currently engaged in a process of consultations to determine how best the above role can be played, in order to ensure that the process that we have set in motion can be taken to its logical conclusion in the near future, where the public affairs in the country are managed based on sound evidence-based policies. This is naturally the dream of every policy-oriented intellectual, the realization of which depends not just on their own efforts, but also on the mobilization of collective resources of a society. It is hoped that we reach that goal in Sri Lanka sooner than later.

Prof. Siri Hettige
Convener - On behalf of the Executive Committee
Programme for Formulating Sound National Policies
Colombo
10th August 2015

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The need to highlight the importance of sound national policies to guide the country into a new era was discussed by various intellectuals and activists, who met over several months between January and June 2015. The culmination of these discussions was the formation of the Programme for Sound National Policies and related deliberations that took place in June 2015, involving experienced practitioners, academics, public officials and activists from various fields. This publication was born as a result of this process.

The courage and commitment of the Executive Committee members of the Programme for Sound National Policies cannot be separated from the outcome. In addition, the coordinators appointed for various policy areas, who took the responsibility of consulting their peers and producing policy outlines for this publication were Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe, Mr. S.M.A De Alwis, Dr. C.S. Weeraratna, Prof. Sirimal Abeyrathne, Mr. Anura Eknayake, Dr. Maneesha W. Pasqual, Mr. Nandasiri Gamage, Dr. Shantha Abeysinghe, Mr. L.K. Ruhunage, Prof. Krishan Deheragoda, Dr. Frank de Silva, Prof. Ramani Jayathilaka, Prof. K. Karunathilaka, Prof. Jayanthi de Silva, Prof. D. Wanasinghe, Prof. J.K.D.S. Jayaneththi, Mr. Palitha Abeywardana, Dr. Sepali Kottegoda, Mr. Dinesh Casie Chetty, Dr. Chandani Liyanage, Mr. S. Ranugge, Dr. Michael Fernando and Prof. Amal Kumarage. They deserve our praise and gratitude. These coordinators were assisted by a large number of resource persons whose names cannot be mentioned here for want of space. Their names are given in Annex 2.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Campaign for Sound National Policies, including Mr. Namal Weerasena (Coordinator), Dr. Piyadasa Gamage, Mr. R.M.B. Senanayake, Dr. Nirmal Ranjith Devasiri, Mr. Upali Chandrasiri, Mr. Malika Weerasuriya, Ms. Malika Samaraweera, Mr. W.B.A. Jayasekara, Mr. P.D. Liyanarachchi, Mr. Rahula Senanayake, Mr. Ariyasheela Wickramanayake, Mr. Vidya Abhayagunawardana, Mr. Daminda Hettiarachchi, Mr. Nandasena Madugoda, Mr. Shantha Kulasekera, Mr. K. Krishna Raj and Mr. Janaka Ratnayake, were part of the programme even before it commenced and have remained committed and active.

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Finally, it needs to be stated that this is the beginning of a process of working towards the betterment of our country, and every single individual has a role to play in making this dream a reality. We hope more and more individuals and organizations will extend their support towards this endeavour in the near future.

Prof. Siri Hettige
Convener - On behalf of the Executive Committee
Programme for Formulating Sound National Policies

National Policy Outline: Agriculture

Vision

A dynamic and diversified agricultural sector, meeting food and other needs.

Overarching Principles

- Sustainable land, water and other resource use for agricultural production.
- Food security and balanced nutrition for all people.
- Farmer livelihoods are secured against market and environmental changes.
- New technology is adopted and promoted for the development of the sector.
- Higher standard of living for the farming population.

Approaches

- Increase and diversify agricultural production sustainably.
- Promote the production of agricultural raw material for agro-based industries.
- Increase the productivity of land, labour and other inputs.
- Meet food and nutrition requirements of the population, while reducing the need for food imports.
- Increase export earnings of value-added agriculture.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
Policies have not been implemented correctly, resulting in the following issues: <u>Land and water</u> - Unavailability of adequate fertile land for cultivation. - Improper land use. - High level of land degradation. - Ineffective water management. <u>Agrochemicals</u> - Lack of appropriate fertilizer recommendations and monitoring mechanisms. - Inappropriate usage of insecticides, and lack of effective weedicides or alternative weed control systems after the banning of Glyphosate. - Uncontrollable diseases in plantations (Weligama Coconut Wilt Disease, Grassy Shoot Disease in sugarcane). <u>Harvest</u> - Inadequate mechanization of harvesting leading to wastage and quality issues. - Higher levels of toxic residue in harvested products (fruits and vegetables). - Low yields and high post-harvest losses, irregular supplies and price instability. - Wastage, due to a lack of preservation methods and value additions. <u>Animal husbandry (dairy sector)</u> - Unavailability of enough suitable land for pasture. - Lack of better cattle breeds. - Poor veterinary services. - Problems of marketing. - High expenditure on milk imports, amounting to Rs. 44 billion. - High costs of feed.	- Prepared policies are not in place or effectively implemented. - Lack of coordination and absence of a network of services that reaches the grassroots. - Ad-hoc decisions and initiations, in spite of necessary policies, undermine the development of the sector.

Recommendations

Coordination and Expert Guidance

- Establish an inter-ministerial steering committee for policy implementation and monitoring.
- Establish expert committees for necessary advice and support.
- Establish coordination mechanisms through relevant institutions, such as HARTI, IPHT, CRI, TRI and RRI.

Institutional Changes

- Appoint only capable and qualified personnel to management positions in agriculture-related institutions.
- Categorise and place agriculture-related institutes under one relevant ministry, instead of divesting such institutions among many ministries.
- Revamp training programmes at different levels to meet the diverse technical needs of the sector.
- Make a critical institutional appraisal to determine the weaknesses and gaps in services.
- Revamp research institutes to meet the current and emerging needs of the sector.

National Policy Outline: Art and Culture

Vision

All persons have the opportunity to appreciate art, as it serves to entertain them and make their lives meaningful by imparting a deep understanding of the world.

Overarching Principles

- All citizens should have equal opportunities to participate in artistic activities.
- The state should only play the role of a facilitator of the arts.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policy</u>
- Assistance to some genres of art through the organization of art festivals, facilitation of competitions and awards, and financial assistance to artists. - Teaching some art genres at primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutes, including government schools, and preparing curricula. - The Public Performance board is often influenced by the advice of political and religious organizations.	- The politicization of art, based on the wishes of political parties and politicians in power, sometimes leads to favouritism at competitions and festivals. - The appointment of unqualified persons to important positions in the artistic sphere takes place. - A lack of policy options to facilitate cooperation between state institutions and artists. - A lack of policy options to foster contact with foreign counterparts.

Recommendations

Urgent Need for Policies

- A policy framework should be introduced with the goal of opening the world of arts to Sri Lanka. There are several ideological and practical challenges to be overcome in this regard.
- The Arts Council Act of 1952 should be amended or replaced with a new statute, with the objective of reorganizing the Arts Council.

The Role of the State

- Qualified and suitable officials should be appointed to all institutions dealing with the Arts.
- The state should assist tertiary education institutes to carry out research from an anthropological perspective on the theatre, music and dance traditions of Sri Lanka, with a view to finding the future potential of these art forms.

Infrastructure Provision

- Infrastructure facilities should be provided to all areas of the country to facilitate all genres of the arts. In this regard, existing cultural centres managed by the state can be used effectively. Involving the Ministry of Education is also necessary.
- Existing groups and organizations, such as the state dance troupe, the music bands of the security forces and the activities of the National Youth Council, should be consolidated.
- It is also suggested to establish a central arts centre complex in Colombo with performing and rehearsing facilities, library and research facilities for all arts, as well as an art gallery. The area where the National Art Gallery and *Nelum Pokuna* are situated is ideal for this purpose.

Education

- The prevailing system of teaching some art genres in schools is a positive aspect of our education system, and should be strengthened and consolidated.

Financial Aspects

- Financial assistance for active, non-commercial art forms should be guaranteed.

National Policy Outline: Crime Prevention

Vision

A just and secure society, where the members actively contribute to their security and well-being.

- Restore confidence in the community with respect to crime prevention and control.
- Restore confidence in the criminal justice system and the criminal justice process, and provide the community an enhanced stake in it.
- Evaluate the entire criminal justice process in order to assess the capacities of the relevant agencies to perform their tasks and functions.

Overarching Principles

- The criminal justice system for crime prevention needs to be people-centred and viewed from a peoples' perspective rather than from an elitist stance.
- Such a people-centred vision gains further clarity from two other principles: the sovereignty of the people and the rights of the people.
- A reduction in monopolistic control will facilitate equity: as it stands, the value placed on the role of professionals is at odds with the value of community-based participation.

Approaches

- Policy-making for law reforms should include public consultation, and not be limited to legal professionals.
- The interests of the community should be foremost in the policies for law reform.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- There is no national policy for crime prevention, law and order or peace and security. All malfunctions are due to the absence of a national policy. - The policy area for crime prevention, as currently understood, is confined to the police.	- There is a primary structural issue of a policy gap, resulting in an absence of integration or coordination among the agencies of the criminal justice system. - There are no policies to bridge the gap between the different agencies of the criminal justice system. - There is no common objective to direct the different agencies. - There is a need for policy to reduce the workload of courts. - A policy to minimize the law's delay is critically important. - A policy should be devised to have intervening action between parties and their legal representatives, between the dates of the cases. - There is no national policy to develop a law for the prevention of crimes.

Recommendations

- A new policy for crime prevention and crime control must be fashioned from the perspective of the people, and not as perceived from narrow departmental or vested interests.
- A new and people-based policy for crime prevention and crime control should enlist as many agencies and processes as possible outside of the criminal justice system. This approach will serve to make the system more community-oriented.
- A policy of outsourcing some aspects of the criminal process in a feasible manner, through mediation outside of the courts and the adjudication process, will alleviate some of the problems of the formal court process. This will reduce the workload of the courts and avoid delays.
- A policy to minimize delays in the law through intermediary *action* by lawyers, at the instance of court, during the intervening period between the two calling dates of a case to effect a settlement of the case, or by way of interrogatories, or any other means to reduce the work of courts, should be explored.
- A policy for criminal law development, where law reform is community-based and not confined to professional law reform agencies is necessary.
- A National Council for Law and Order needs to be established for crime prevention. The Council would potentially serve as a national oversight body over relevant agencies. The task of this Council would be policy formulation and performance evaluation.

National Policy Outline: Disability

Vision

Persons with disabilities enjoy a full and satisfying life and contribute to national development their knowledge, experience and particular skills and capabilities as equal citizens of Sri Lanka.

Overarching Principles

- Look at ability but not disability.
- Accept and respect disability as a part of human diversity.
- Equality and equity.
- Non-discrimination.
- Ethics of non-exclusion.
- Disability Rights are Human Rights.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in current policies</u>
- Sri Lanka has a Comprehensive National Policy on Disability approved by Cabinet in 2003. - A National Action Plan for Disability to give effect to the policy was approved in 2014. Both were formulated through consultative and participatory processes. - They are both based on promoting and protecting the human rights of people with disabilities as equal citizens taking into account our country's social, economic and cultural ethos, whilst at the same time keeping in line with global trends and demands (ref. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) 2006). - Implementation of policy, however, has not kept pace with expectations. It has not had significant impact. People with disabilities remain marginalized. Empowerment - Powerlessness and no control over their own lives. - Failure to recognize the voice of persons with disabilities. - Development and use of sign language and other communication methodologies neglected. - Failure to ratify CRPD and Marrakesh Treaty. Health and Rehabilitation - Inadequate facilities for early detention and intervention. - Lack of assistive technologies and devices. - Poor access to health care facilities and specialized services. - Inadequate facilities and access to rehabilitation. - Inadequate knowledge and skills for disability work	- Policy implementation is now a responsibility of Ministry of Social Affairs. However, as this would be a multi-ministerial policy, no one ministry can effectively bring other ministries together for disability work. Added to this is the hierarchical nature of ministerial structures. - Filling the gap requires a High Level National Commission for Disability to be placed directly under the office of the Executive, which may be either the President or the Prime Minister, to implement the existing National Policy on Disability and the National Action Plan on Disability.

Education

- Education policy fails to promote inclusive strategies and plans for children with disabilities.
- The attitudinal environment of the school system segregates children with disabilities.
- School dropout rates are high.
- Children with disabilities are administratively under the special education branch of Ministry of Education and under the non-formal education department. Therefore, children with disabilities are immediately outside mainstream education.
- The quality of secondary education limits opportunities for students with disabilities to access higher education

Work and Employment

- Inadequate opportunities for job preparation, career guidance and counselling.
- The failure of mainstream vocational training system to adequately include youth.
- Inadequate support for self-employment and micro-finance.
- Opportunities for mainstream employment are limited.
- Failure to provide reasonable accommodation in the work environment and a lack of knowledge at the workplace on how to interact with persons with disabilities.

Mainstreaming and Enabling Environment

- Public transport and built environment inaccessible.
- Negative perceptions on disability that lead to exclusion and discrimination.
- Not all residential care institutions are registered and monitored by the state.
- Lack of resources for residential care institutions.
- Poor housing.
- Mainstream sports facilities not open to persons with disabilities.
- Limited access to religious and cultural environment.
- Development of travel and tourism fail to take persons with disabilities in to account.
- Limited access to public accommodation.
- Limited access to telecommunication services.

Data and Research

- Weakness in data collection through national census.
- Failure to have DMIS and databases restricts effective management and administration.
- Lack of multidisciplinary work on disability studies.
- Inadequate research for evidence-based practice.

Social and Institutional Cohesion

- No implementation, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to implement a multi-sectoral approach towards disabilities.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sectoral policies, plans and budgets do not take disability into account. - Decentralized administration does not include disability. - Lack of budgetary allocations for the inclusion of disability in development work. - The effectiveness and impact of the National Community Based Rehabilitation programme not known. - Lack of partnerships among State, NGOs and Private Sector. - Lack of professional standards and ethical guidelines in disability work. | |
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Recommendations

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no need for a new policy. However there is a need for effective implementation of existing policy. - High level National Commission for Disability with overriding function for policy implementation is required. |
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National Policy Outline: Economy

Vision

Sustainable and inclusive economic development for improved quality of life.

Overarching Principles

- Ensuring business confidence through corruption-free political and administrative systems, rule of law, intellectual property rights and good governance, which are crucial preconditions to achieving economic goals.
- Indiscriminate and uneconomical handouts to appease the masses should be discouraged, while social security programmes should be targeted to the needy.
- Indigenous knowledge inherited in Sri Lanka for centuries should be harnessed as a key source of innovation in the envisaged knowledge economy.
- There should be strong political will to support long-term sustainable and inclusive development without depending on short-term populist policies to gain political mileage.
- Appropriate work norms and discipline are also essential to improve productivity and to accelerate economic growth.

Approaches

- Invest in rigorous Research and Development (R&D) to promote 'smart' technology and innovation solutions (as against 'cheap' solutions solely aiming at output growth) to improve the quality of life while ensuring economic, social and environmental sustainability.
- Promote Science and Technology (S&T) for national development.
- Promote pro-poor and inclusive technology geared to reduce poverty and income inequality.
- Reform the education system to build the knowledge economy.
- Create a business-friendly investment environment to attract local and foreign investors.
- Strengthen private and public sector participation and partnerships (PPP) in development.
- Rationalized social security programmes targeting the extreme poor.
- Implement robust monetary and exchange rate policies.

Current State

- The present macroeconomic policies are severely constrained by the fiscal imbalance arising from high government expenditure vis-à-vis stagnant revenue inflows. This is reflected in the persistent efforts of the Central Bank to keep market interest rates at low levels so as to ease the debt service payments. The policy leeway is further hindered by the balance of payment deficits as reflected in the appreciation of the real exchange rate weakening the country's export competitiveness.
- The current policies are also characterized by populist handouts given by the successive governments to gain political mileage at the electorate. The Samurdhi Programme, for example, is not realistically targeted, and as a result, many of the not-so-poor are benefitted, exerting added pressure on the Government budget. Various other handouts offered during elections have worsened the situation. These offers not only create additional pressures on the budget but also act as a disincentive to engage in economic activities.
- The fiscal imbalance has been compounded by the substantial expansion of government sector employment as an easy solution to deal with the problem of unemployment.

Gaps in Current Policies

- Many developing countries, including Sri Lanka, have remained in the lower-middle income category (per capita income ranging from \$ 1,016 to \$ 4,086) for prolonged periods due to their inability to move away from basic industries to high-tech industries. Such countries are said to be caught in the 'middle-income trap'. Only very few developing countries have been able to escape this through 'innovation-driven' growth supported by rigorous Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies. There is hardly any emphasis on such a growth path in the current policy strategies. Policy attention on Research and Development (R&D) is dismal.
- It is essential to accelerate GDP growth so as to deal with socioeconomic problems including poverty, income inequality, youth unemployment and child and maternal malnutrition. However, sustainability of an annual growth rate of around 8.0%, as envisaged in the existing macroeconomic policy framework, is a major challenge, given the structural weaknesses in the current policy setup.
- The exchange rate and interest rates are two crucial instruments that can be used by the Central Bank to navigate economic activity to optimum levels in a market-based economy. When they become inactive, as in the present context, goods and financial markets operate at less optimum levels. It is not feasible to anchor both the exchange rate and interest rates in a situation of capital movements, as implied by the well-established 'impossible trinity' theorem.

Recommendations

- The main goal of the desired economic policy should be to improve the quality of life while ensuring economic, social and environmental sustainability for future generations. The key to achieving sustainable growth is technology and innovation.
- Acceleration of pro-poor, equitable or inclusive economic growth is essential to reduce poverty and income inequality. In this regard, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) could play a major role as evident from the economic success of East Asian countries.
- Knowledge economy has been the major source of rapid socioeconomic progress achieved by several countries in the East Asian region. Sri Lanka, however, is handicapped by poor knowledge economy attributes. Hence, improvements are necessary, specifically in the fields of human resources, science and technology, innovation, business environment, economic regimes and institutional structures.
- It is essential that Science, Technology and Innovation be integrated into public policies as a high priority goal so as to ensure equitable growth in Sri Lanka.
- Adopt and finance rigorous Research and Development (R&D) investment plans to promote 'smart' technology and innovation solutions.

Institutional Changes

- Revive the national planning mechanism to formulate macroeconomic strategies and to facilitate private sector activities.
- Ensure the independence of the Central Bank eliminating political interference.
- The Ministry of Finance should strengthen its institutional setup to rationalize government expenditure and to mobilize higher revenues.
- Efficient innovation systems encompassing firms, research centers and universities should be in place to grasp global knowledge and to adapt it to suit local conditions.
- The Department of Census and Statistics should be entrusted to collect and disseminate accurate and timely databases that are needed to monitor economic, social and environmental sustainability.
- Establish an effective institutional setup to eliminate corruption and to improve accountability and transparency.

National Policy Outline: Education

Vision

An education system that nurtures children and youth to become healthy, responsible, well-rounded and employable individuals, ready to support the sustainable development of the country.

Approaches

- The national policy should cover the areas of Early Childhood Development (ECD), general education and tertiary education, including universities and technical and vocational training.
- To manage the education institutional system holistically within one ministry or a cluster of related ministries, instead of the current dispersal of functions and inevitable overlaps.
- To infuse the required quality into the education system at all levels, starting from early childhood development all the way to the tertiary institutions.
- Ensure book-based learning is liberally balanced with the physical and mental development of students, so that the products of free education become a strong asset to the future development of the country.
- Improve the quality of teachers, lecturers and education managers by making available internationally accepted standard of postgraduate training facilities through universities and colleges.
- Overcome the existing disparity between national and other schools by classifying only primary and secondary schools under the Provincial Education Ministries. No racial or religious division should be employed to identify or classify schools.
- Enact the draft bill for the National Education Act, making the provisions legal, and provide the necessary infrastructure for its implementation.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- Lack of policy has created issues throughout the education system from early childhood development to university/tertiary levels. - Educational systems have evolved independent of psychological or biological needs of students of different age categories, resulting in children losing their childhoods, becoming physically weak, lacking play and free time for creative engagement, and lacking holistic skills development in other areas and the opportunity for parents to recognise and develop special talents within children, which has impacted early childhood development. - Today, the education system is churning out 'products' that are not only unsuited for the job market but are also socially isolated, without adequate attention to their civic duties and social responsibilities. - Even within the free and compulsory education system, many drop out of school just before or after the Ordinary Level examination, generally at Grade 10 (16-17 years)).	<u>General Education</u> - The Education Act No. 31 of 1939, amended in 1946, 1947, 1951, 1958 and 1973, still provides the legal framework for the general education system. - The National Education Commission (NEC) was established in the wake of Presidential Commission on Youth, established after the 1988-1989 insurrection. However, after 23 years of existence and despite several attempts or recommendations for restructuring and re-organising the education system, the NEC has failed to bring about progressive reforms in the sector. - In 2012, the Parliamentary Select Committee endorsed the draft bill for a new Education Act. However, this process has stalled without progress.

Those who sit for the Advanced Level examination then enter the job market without necessary life or job skills. - 300,000 young children enter the first grade each year. There is a huge competition for popular national schools and those with high levels of facilities. Other primary schools in villages languish without an adequate number of students. There is a huge disparity in the way resources are allocated across popular national schools and other schools. - There are no vocational/technical subjects incorporated in to the curriculum up to grade 10. This has resulted in marginalising those youth without inclinations towards theoretical/scientific education. They are forced to drop out from the system around this stage. - In 2014, Technical Studies was introduced to the A/L subject stream, in collaboration with the Department and Colleges of Technology and Technical Colleges. However, there are no universities that have incorporated the subject sufficiently to cater to future demand. - University graduates find it hard to secure employment relative to their level of education and many graduates, especially from Arts Faculties, are unemployed.	- There are a plethora of institutions (National Education Commission, Ministry of Education, National Institute of Education, National Evaluation Centre, and Department of Education Publications), including 9 Provincial Ministries of Education, which are responsible for general education today, leading to overlaps and under-service by all these institutions. <u>Higher Education</u> - There are 14 national universities and 8 affiliated institutions that conduct degree programmes in Sri Lanka. However, these institutions are unable to take in at least 20% of those who pass the GCE Advanced Level examination, thereby qualifying for higher education. - There have been proposals developed by the NEC in 1996 and 2002 to develop a national policy for higher education but this has not yet been realized. <u>Technical and Vocational Education</u> - There is no National Policy for vocational and technical education. In 2002, the NEC developed policy recommendations for technical, technological and vocational education, which were not adopted.
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Recommendations

- Take steps to enact the draft Education Bill, which has been developed through a process of extensive consultation and review, with approval from the Parliamentary Select Committee.
- International standards of postgraduate facilities in national universities, to cater to demands for qualified teachers, principals, lecturers, educationists and education managers.
- Review the mandate of the NEC, the reasons behind the failure to bring about lasting reforms in the education sector and transform it in to a powerful institution, with broader responsibility and mandate directly answerable to the Parliament and, through this, the public.

Specific Recommendations by the Education Sub-sector:

Early Childhood Development (ECD):

- Recommendations were made in 1998 to align the curricula for ECD with the growth stages of very young children, and their emotional, physical and tactical needs. The policy on ECD should reflect the standards developed by the National Secretariat for Children. There should be a recommended learning pathway - not a standardized curricula for ECD.
- ECD Centres should be managed and monitored for quality by the Provincial Authorities. There should be opportunities for teaching staff to acquire post-graduate qualifications in the subject.

General Education:

- There should be a strong national policy on general education that does not change with governments or political whims.
- There should be legal provisions to prevent politically motivated changes in syllabi or composition of subjects. A ten-year review of the school education system is recommended and any changes must be widely discussed and agreed to by professionals and educationists.
- The teaching profession should be revamped by providing them with new skills needed to meet new teaching and learning responsibilities. Only those with the right aptitude and qualifications must be recruited as teachers.
- All schools must be managed by the Provincial Councils, and schools should be divided only as primary and secondary, to avoid high disparities with national schools with greater resources. There should be no religious or ethnic labelling for schools. All schools should be mixed to the extent possible, and all new secondary schools should be mixed and not racially divided.
- Revamp the curricula: especially in areas of technical education, sexual education and religious/cultural education to be responsive to needs of the country and the students' physical and mental development.
- Management, monitoring, resource allocation, certification and evaluation should be the undertaking of the line Ministry at the national level.

Higher Education:

- There should be a national policy that enables all students who pass the Advanced Level examination to qualify for some form of higher education.
- Curricula and subject specializations in national universities should be diversified, to cater to national needs and provide intellectuals for nation building.
- All national universities should offer post-graduate degrees and courses.

- Universities should be non-fee levying, not-for-profit institutions. The National Government should make adequate budgetary allocations for higher education, to maintain universities and all other tertiary institutions.
- Provide diversified modes of education access for those who wish to undertake higher education through online or technology-assisted means.

Technical and Technological Education

- To produce the necessary skilled human resources for national development, a radical transformation is required in the technical and technological fields of education. A new policy should reflect this urgent need.
- Invest in developing and upgrading the network of technical colleges and technological schools to cater to students who are now taking technology as an A/L subject.
- Develop the Ocean University in Tangalle into a modern institution, dedicated to delivering high standard courses on marine resources management.
- Cater to the growing need in aviation, shipping and tourism fields by establishing two new universities dedicated to training and skills development for these sectors. These universities can be based at Mattala Airport and the Hambantota Port, using infrastructure already developed.

National Policy Outline: Environment

Vision

Preserving Sri Lanka's unique natural heritage while establishing the right of citizens to enjoy a clean environment.

Overarching Principles

- Environmental management that facilitates the protection and conservation of eco-systems and species to ensure sustainability of development efforts and a 'pleasant' environment to all.
- Ensure that environmental resources and services are protected for future generations.
- Address environmental issues and degradation promptly and effectively.

Approaches

- Strengthen the protection of environmental resources through improved delegation of regulatory power and by providing technical guidance and support to District and Local Authorities, with strong monitoring to ensure effectiveness.
- Facilitate community participation for the protection, enhancement and conservation of the environment, by educating and engaging school children, community based organizations and the general public in environmental management.
- Develop, update and maintain a database on environmental issues.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- A serious issue is the excessive number of organizations dealing with the same resources - e.g. land and water resources. - There is a fragmentation of responsibility among a large number of authorities, departments and institutions. - A lack of intra and inter co-ordination among institutions. - Inadequate staff to handle complex environmental issues, while some officers have not received adequate training to perform pollution prevention techniques (in laboratory testing etc.). - Offences that are of critical concern to the environment should be made non-bailable. As such, the powers of law enforcement authorities should be increased. - Lack of technology for scientific data collection and the prevention of pollution. - Unequal distribution of technical equipment among regional environment officers, resulting in severe disparity between offices. - Rural poverty and landlessness have driven people to commit offences, such as illicit felling of timber, unauthorized cultivation of steep slopes etc.	- There is no dearth of environmental legislation in Sri Lanka. What is lacking is proper enforcement. - There are serious short-comings in law enforcement. Any attempt to control unlawful activities are prevented by political pressure. - Quite often, penalties imposed are inadequate. Some of the fines are very low. - There are several instances where the provisions of one law supersede another E.g. the Forest Ordinance and Criminal Procedure Codes. - Many of the laws remain fragmented and scattered among several departments, and Ministries etc. Some of the adverse effects of this situation include divided responsibility and insufficient coordination.

- Lack of knowledge – the harmful effects of environmental issues are not known among the general public and this causes a great deal of wastage in resources. This also makes it difficult to maintain a clean and healthy environment becomes difficult due to negative attitudes and conventional thinking of people. - Lack of funds for environmental management projects. Management and conservation of environment has been given a secondary place during the past few decades in Sri Lanka. Therefore, annual budgetary allocations have been comparatively low. - Misuse of funds allocated for environmental management have been reported on several occasions. - Lack of proper planning for available funds.	- Most laws do not have provisions to allow the expression of public views. - There are some laws which are not enforced at all, such as the discharge of mining waste – Mines and Mineral Acts No. 33 of 1992. - Some laws are obsolete. E.g. the Pearl Fisheries Ordinance, which was enacted in 1920. Such laws should be revised to suit the present needs.
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Recommendations

- There is an urgent need to develop a holistic approach in formulating environmental policy and law. It is important to examine all environmental legislations with a view to amalgamate, rationalize and integrate, so that the number of laws are reduced and made easy to coordinate.
- It is vital to establish an administrative set-up responsive to the complex interactions between the environment and development.
- Greater involvement of the private sector in development activities and in the conservation of natural resources (i.e. forest and wildlife resources) is vital.
- Promotion of education, awareness and communication on the themes of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources.
- Decision making in the management and conservation of natural resources should be based on traditional knowledge, scientific information and research findings. Urgent steps should be taken to conserve and protect traditional knowledge.

National Policy Outline: Family Welfare

Vision

Contented and integrated families in a supportive community environment.

Overarching Principles

- Enhanced family resources (considering the family as an economic unit).
- Health, nutrition and contentment.
- Life skills development among family members.
- Family integration.
- Gender equality.
- Stable satisfaction of sexual needs.
- Socialization and education.

Approaches

- State and non-state institutions to serve the entire family unit through services and other interventions.
- Inter-sectoral action towards supporting families.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- The Ministry of Social Services has appointed a consultative committee to formulate a holistic family policy. The committee has formulated a broad policy, through a strong consultative approach involving all stakeholders. - The draft policy is in its final stages of formulation, with the Ministry of Social Services planning to circulate it for public comments. In addition, the consultative committee has identified a special review panel corresponding to the specific fields of the draft policy.	- The draft policy on family, which is being formulated by the Ministry of Social Services, is very comprehensive and in accordance with an evidence-based approach to policy formulation. No gaps have been found.

Recommendations

- Enhance the well-being of children and young people, maximise their opportunities, and recognise their rights and interests within the family.
- Support parents and guardians in executing their responsibilities towards their children.
- Inculcate the reciprocal commitment of children towards accepted norms and values of the family.
- Provide a policy and legal framework conducive to the diversity of family types and cultural beliefs and practices.
- Provide a policy and legal framework which facilitates the range of ways in which parents and others carry out their responsibilities towards children.
- Provide a support system for the well-being of vulnerable families, and integrate and align existing government sponsored and non-government sponsored support systems for vulnerable families with the new strategies and action plans under a policy for family.
- Promote and endure sustainable socio-economic conditions and family bonds among its members.
- Establish a National Advisory Committee and social care centers, which will focus on the Family Policy Strategic Plan.

National Policy Outline: Foreign Relations

Vision

- To project Sri Lanka's image as an inclusive plural society.
- To safeguard the independence, sovereignty and integrity of Sri Lanka.
- To promote enlightened national interests determined by history, geography and economic objectives.
- To restore the Sri Lanka's image and build its status as a responsible nation.
- To safeguard the interests of Sri Lankan nationals living in foreign countries.

Overarching Principles

- All political parties should commonly agree on the broad parameters of a bi-partisan foreign policy based on the principle "*Friendship towards all and enmity with none.*"
- There should be clear provision for the establishment of a professional foreign service based on merit. Other than exceptional instances, Foreign Service should be staffed by career diplomats.
- Any major changes in foreign policy should be discussed extensively by both elected representatives of the people and the general public before proposed policy changes are adopted.
- At least biennial briefings should apprise the Heads of Missions and other diplomatic staff of important development and policy changes in the country.

<u>Current state</u>	<u>Gaps in current policies</u>
- In the past 10 years, Sri Lanka has distanced itself from its traditional and longstanding friendly nations. However, currently, Sri Lanka is focused on strengthening relations with immediate neighbours in the SAARC Region and other Asian countries. - There is a need to re-establish Sri Lanka's relations with America and Europe, which are still the largest markets for our products. - Commendable steps have been taken by the present government to restore religious harmony in the background of unfortunate incidents in Aluthgama last year, which had repercussions in West Asia and other Islamic countries. - Our relations with the UN with regard to Human Rights and Post-Conflict Reconciliation have not been healthy. However, Sri Lanka is working on re-engagement with the UN system in a responsible manner. - Reviving our commitment to the Commonwealth Principles and strengthening of relations with Commonwealth Countries. - Recent visits by foreign dignitaries to Sri Lanka and visits undertaken by Sri Lanka's President/Foreign Minister to several important countries bilaterally, and the productive discussions during these visits, have demonstrated that the country is moving in the correct direction in pursuit of policies beneficial to the country.	- Lack of regular recruitment system to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service. - Absence of a proper training system for officials recruited to the Foreign Service. The present global trend emphasises economic diplomacy (e.g. <i>Narendra Modi's "Make in India" policy</i>). Diplomats should be special kind of marketers who could make use of current development trends in economic diplomacy (Trade, Investments and Tourism) with special training in economic diplomacy. - Irregular recruitment policy in the past has resulted in lack of experienced officials to man positions in the Ministry and Foreign Missions. - Absence of a recognized Advisory Group of eminent persons or Think Tank to provide inputs in foreign policy formulation and management. - There is no proper screening procedure (e.g. special typology exercise) at the High Posts Committee for nominees for Heads of Sri Lanka Mission positions. - Considering Sri Lanka's size and population, there are too many diplomatic posts. For example, two missions in Uganda and Seychelles were set up for inexplicable reasons, which were previously covered in Nairobi and Pretoria.

Recommendations

- With the formation of a new government, following the next general election, consensus should be reached by all political parties for an Act of Parliament stipulating that Sri Lanka would continue to pursue a bi-partisan foreign policy. This Act will make provisions for the establishment of a professional foreign service based on merit. However, in exceptional circumstances competent personalities from outside the Service would be eligible to be appointed as Heads of Mission.
- There should be re-appraisal of the role played by the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Foreign Affairs and it should be made more effective with regular meetings. Any major changes in Foreign Policy should be discussed extensively by the Committee before any decision is taken. Opportunity should be provided for the public to have a debate on proposed policy changes.
- Recognise the contribution of migrant workers to the economy and provide facilities to vote at elections in Sri Lanka through our Embassies and Diplomatic Posts in the respective countries. Unskilled female migrant workers should be protected from exploitation in the Middle East.
- Sri Lanka should become party to important disarmament conventions, such as those on landmines and cluster bombs, which will add to the stature of Sri Lanka's image in the UN.
- Every effort should be made to have more qualified and deserving Sri Lankans serving in the UN system and other international organizations, which will bring recognition and other benefits to the country.
- To improve foreign relations with the West and with the UN, address the accountability issues arising from the Resolution adopted at the 25th Regular session of Human Rights Council held in March 2014 and also adopt a credible domestic accountability process and appoint Independent Commissions in accordance with the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.
- Re-organize the political divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cognizance of the changing global geo-political situation, with separate desks to handle relations with;
 - China, Japan and Korea
 - Central Asia (there is at present considerable attention paid to this region by US, Russia and China)
 - The expatriate community (diasporas)
- To stipulate an Advisory Council in the proposed Foreign Relations Act of eminent persons, including retired Ambassadors, to provide suitable briefings to the President and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the conduct of foreign relations.
- The Foreign Ministry's recent practice of having a spokesperson to give clarifications to the media on current issues is salutary. Statements should be carefully drafted, taking into consideration all aspects of our foreign relations.
- Our Missions should explore the possibility of establishing collaborative research programmes, with mutual benefits to countries involved. This will increase opportunities for the human resource development of academic faculty and research staff through exchange programmes in universities and research institutions.

National Policy Outline: Gender Equality

Vision

Gender Equality, ensuring acceptance and a better understanding of equality of women and men; integrating respect for diversity across ethnic, religious and sexual identities of all citizens.

Overarching Principles

- That there should be unequivocal acceptance and understanding of the need for equality among the genders.
- That social, cultural, economic and political norms that promote equality among genders will be adopted at all levels of governance.
- That there will be respect for diversity across sexual identities and recognition of special gender-specific needs in formulating other sectoral policies.

Approaches

All national policies must integrate principles of gender equality. However, there should be a separate policy to strengthen the principles of gender equality enshrined in the Constitution, by abolishing or amending discriminatory laws, regulations and social norms that are unfair to women.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- Nationally, a Women's Charter was passed by Cabinet in 1993 to inform policy formulation. Additionally, National Action Plans have been periodically formulated by the National Committee on Women. However, the National Action Plan on Women has never been implemented in any substantive way. - It is noteworthy that Sri Lanka does not have a national policy on gender equality. - There is also a lack of integration of the principles of gender equality across and within other sector policies that impact on women's social, economic and political participation. - The resources available for the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MWA) are very poor; budgetary allocations for the MWA are negligible. This has negatively impacted the quality and number of qualified personnel available to formulate and sustain coherent and effective mechanisms to ensure implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes that foster gender equality at national, sub-national and local levels of governance.	- The current system requires a fostering of shared responsibility, as well as an integrated and sustained policy response across Government.

Recommendations

The new policy should have a holistic perspective and a framework that reflects women's rights and gender equality. It should be underscored by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW, which have all been ratified by Sri Lanka.

In addition;

- Ensure a focus on women's rights as human rights.
- Strengthen the principle of gender equality in Section 12 (3) in the Constitution by reviewing and abolishing or amending all laws that are discriminatory to women.
- Address the need to move away from a focus that is overwhelmingly on women's reproductive roles to shared domestic, economic and political roles of women and men.
- Address gender stereotyping in education curricula from the primary levels up – gender roles should promote and support non-gender stereotyping in educational curricula and recognize sexual diversity in our society.
- Ensure women's individual autonomy and control over their lives in all social, economic and political aspects of life.
- Challenge and change negative social norms that discriminate against women and perpetuate violence against women.
- Address gender inequalities at the home, workplace and in society.
- Prescribe that all important national policies must integrate principles of gender equality.

National Policy Outline: Health and Wellbeing

Vision

A healthy and content nation.

Overarching Principles

Health and contentment are fundamental values in Sri Lankan society, and are vital to human existence. That all should have access to such services is an overarching principle, and should not be limited to the right to access health care based on needs only. A National Policy on Health should also recognise the value of health for human, social and economic development.

Approaches

The 'Health in All Policies' approach recognizes that public policies across all sectors should have health components. It focuses on improving the accountability of policymakers, by taking into account the implications of health- and health system-related decisions across all sectors and levels of policy-making, and avoiding harmful health impacts. This approach has been developed and tested in a number of countries, by providing assistance to leaders and policy-makers to integrate considerations of health, well-being and equity during the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and services. This is the approach suggested for National Health Policies in Sri Lanka going forward.

'Health in All Policies' works best when:

- There is a clear policy on integration and collaboration.
- Systematic processes take account of interactions across sectors.
- Mediation occurs across interests.
- Accountability, transparency and participatory processes are present.
- Engagement occurs with stakeholders outside of government.
- Practical cross-sector initiatives build partnerships and trust.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policy</u>
- Health is an outcome of a wide range of factors, many of which are outside the health sector. - The people of Sri Lanka continue to use a pluralistic health system. - Unacceptable levels of inequality in health outcomes, and in access to quality healthcare across social groups. - There is a large volume of untapped knowledge of indigenous solutions, and the capabilities and capacities of the people of Sri Lanka to introduce innovative solutions.	- The current system requires a fostering of shared responsibility, as well as an integrated and sustained policy response across government. - A deficit in professionalism amongst healthcare workers, including a lack of respect for the dignity of the individual and communities.

Recommendations

Legislative Recommendations

- Promote 'Health in All Policies.'
- Include an explicit right to health in a new Constitution, as well as in the strategies and policies of the Ministry of Health.
- Introduce legislation to require health impact assessments by other sectors, and at the highest levels of policy planning (e.g., the Department of National Planning, and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka).

Efficient and Accessible Healthcare

- Universal coverage (including the provision of health information and promotion) is increasingly accepted as the way forward to strengthen health and health systems.
- Strengthen universal coverage by investing in deficient or weak areas of the healthcare system. This includes the quality of services, geographic distribution, and the deployment of services and healthcare workers based on needs.
- Policies should aim to direct special attention to the poor and marginalized groups with greater investment in access and financial protection for the poor.
- Reorient health care towards responsive, people-centred, culturally appropriate and multi-disciplinary team-based care, and focus on health promotion.

Community and Ministerial Partnerships

- Establish inter-ministerial and inter-departmental agencies and committees for health, and cross-sectoral action teams, allowing integrated budgets and accounting for activities relating to multiple sectors.
- Create fora for partnerships, to enable the sharing of information among universities, academia, the private sector, professional organizations and non-government organizations in formulating policy, policy planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Include community participation in decision-making at the national, sub-national and institutional levels, by having representatives from civil society and patient groups. Regularly consult with people to link policy changes with wider social and cultural changes around health and wellbeing.

Spatial Efficiency

- Establish pilot facilities where different systems of healthcare are practiced at close geographic proximity, evaluate their effectiveness – based on which, scale-up to other areas.
- Develop closer links between different systems of care that exist in the country, and promote a greater role for successful indigenous therapeutics and interventions in our health systems.

Resource Allocations

- Increase resource allocations for health promotion, prevention, primary levels of care, and population-based health interventions.
- Healthcare is best provided in a tax-based public sector with zero-charges to the end-user. Therefore, strengthen the public sector role in healthcare and ensure that it is provided free at the point of delivery.

Indirect Medical Costs

- Take measures to identify out-of-pocket expenses and indirect costs due to illness, and take measures to reduce such financial burdens using resources available in the public, private and volunteer sectors.
- Develop closer links with the social service sector to cushion the impacts of illness.

Healthcare Personnel

- Establish systems for the accreditation of institutions and obtain feedback from users on quality of healthcare.
- Promote the development of professionalism, ethical behaviour and communication skills of healthcare workers.
- Identify and develop work norms, with working hours that will ensure patient safety and the revalidation of healthcare workers.

National Policy Outline: Housing

Vision

Sustainable settlements and socially and economically integrated communities.

The above vision should be underpinned by principles and values of sustainability, viability, equality, holistic development and good governance.

Overarching Principles

Enable a rights-based approach to housing: “Access to adequate housing is not a privilege but a right.” The State must take reasonable legislative and other measures within its available resources to achieve the progressive realization of this right, by creating a conducive environment, enabling individual home builders, and social and private Rented Housing Strategies to ensure the creation of a Quality National Housing Stock to meet current and increasing needs.

Approaches

The housing sector is expected to ensure that all Sri Lankans, on a progressive basis, have access to:

- Permanent residential structures with secure tenure, ensuring internal and external privacy and providing adequate protection against the elements.
- Potable water, adequate sanitary facilities, adequate open space and domestic energy supply.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- Since January 2015, there has been a recommitment to the 1981-1994 National Housing Strategies of GOSL in both rural and urban areas. - Housing development strategies were driven as per the whims of politicians, instead of well-founded national policies. Hence, it is of paramount importance to learn from the past and to develop a new Housing Policy to achieve the national objectives of this sector. - Due consideration must be given to overall ecological issues and the socio-economic and demographic trends of the country when attempting to prepare such policies. - The number of officially designated urban service centres, which grew from 28 to 134 during the period of 1901-2001, will increase to 300 by the end of 2015. - Cities face many problems due to a lack of basic infrastructure. Further, homelessness, slums and shanties, urban poverty, over-crowding and environmental pollution are aggravating urban issues. - As per the present demand for housing, another 1.3 million units should be added to the existing national stock of 5.2 million by 2030. This would impose severe pressure on the environment, if Sri Lanka does not implement ecologically balanced, socially acceptable and economically viable structures of sound human settlements. In addition, Colombo faces a grave problem of having half its population living in under-served settlements.	- The lack of a consistent overall National Housing Policy adversely affects all involved in housing industry, market and home builders. - Access to state land is restricted to the individual house builders and private sector developers, due to the lack of a transparent and cohesive land alienation policy. - Access to credit is limited due to a lack of comprehensive instruments for the benefit of the poor, middle class, house builders etc. - Lack of technical support through the rural housing programmes for the self-help home builders makes things difficult for the poor.

- During the past few decades, the conventional shelter development approaches (on-site upgrading, site & services, provision of temporary roofing sheets etc.) have not fully yielded the expected results in the urban settings, and have led to the creation of slums and the perpetuation of urban poverty. - The present trend in Sri Lanka's urban expansion, mainly determined by land prices, has resulted in major land use changes, such as the conversion of agricultural lands to settlements without proper infrastructure facilities. The filling of low-lying lands and ad-hoc and unplanned settlement development leading to urban sprawl, have resulted in a decline in the quality of life in the urban environment. - There is a polarization of urban growth around the capital city, but a lack of the necessary infrastructure to support its expected development. To meet this challenge, it is essential that the capacity of urban local authorities be built up, powers and responsibilities be delineated between the national and local levels, and resources shared between the Province and Local Authorities. - The impact of the civil strife in the North and East on those displaced needs to be assessed, and a comprehensive re-settlement plan including about 80,000 housing units with all the necessary amenities and services must be implemented as an urgent priority. - The Government is supporting the construction of 46,000 houses under the owner-driven North-East Housing and Reconstruction Programme, and is committed to improving housing access by: i) enhancing and encouraging private sector participation; ii) redeveloping Government land, and using the proceeds to construct houses for the poor and displaced; and iii) maximizing the use of the existing housing stock through upgrading and service provision.	- Lack of a constant and affordable pricing policy on construction materials discourages home builders of all categories. - Weak regulatory mechanisms and law enforcement have led to ad-hoc settlement development and negative environmental impacts. - The absence of a well-regulated secondary housing market restricts the growth of the sector, in terms of investment, the mobility of funds, and private sector participation in housing development. - Sri Lanka is in need of an urgent, comprehensive National Housing Policy to mitigate the tragedies faced by people living in disaster-prone areas and to ensure proper standards of construction all across the country.
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Recommendations

- A new National Housing Policy that will strive **“to ensure the right to live in an adequate, stable, affordable, sustainable, environment-friendly and secure house, with services to ensure a high living standard, meeting the needs of the people.”** The policy should be based on the basic strategic approach of enabling the market, but with the proactive involvement of the Government in assisting the housing needs of all, including vulnerable groups.
- **The National Housing Policy should also include traditional methods of labour utilization, the selection of building materials, and environment-friendly architectural methods of construction, particularly in rural areas.**
- Housing is a key economic sector. It is a major motivator for household savings and provides a flow of services equal to 5 to 10 percent of GNP. As an asset, housing adds-up to over 20% of the reproducible wealth of the economy. It affects financial depth, labour mobility, employment creation through its backward and forward linkages and, especially in Sri Lanka, government budgets, because of taxes and subsidies. It must therefore be managed as a distinct productive sector of the economy.

National Policy Outline: Industry

The definition of the Industry Sector employed in this document includes: mining and quarrying; manufacturing; gas and water; and construction. The sector contribution to GDP is around 30%, while it employs 26.5% of Sri Lanka's labour force. However, the manufacturing sub-sector generates only 17.1% of GDP, while employing only 18.2% of the workforce.

Vision

Sri Lanka's industrial future lies in a highly diversified and dynamic SME sector that co-exists with large enterprises in a symbiotic relationship. The objective is to link this sector to local, regional and international value chains, gainfully employ over 30% of the labour force, thus making a significant contribution to the reduction of youth unemployment and rural poverty, and progressively account for at least 40% of Sri Lanka's GDP.

Approaches

The optimal Industrial Policy will include the following features:

- Make optimal use of available physical resources, thus safeguarding the environment, while gainfully employing human resources in a sustainable and ethical manner.
- Exploit dynamic comparative advantages.
- Achieve international competitiveness, while allowing the sector to integrate with regional and global markets.
- Maintain a sustained growth in productivity, as well as a graduation from low-tech, low-value industries to high-tech, high-value industries.
- Achieve balanced regional development.
- Mainstream small and medium-scale industries.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- The current policy and institutional landscape relevant to the Industry Sector is highly fragmented, with overlapping scope and authority creating confusion, characterized by a proliferation of ineffective institutions, with infighting/turf battles and very poor stakeholder and service orientation. - The prevalence of high levels of youth unemployment among the educated, despite a low overall unemployment rate, points to the incapability of the industry sector, among others, to generate sufficiently attractive employment opportunities for youth. - There is a high concentration of industries in the Western Province. This, along with other contributory factors, is linked to the prevailing high income inequalities between the Western Province and other regions of the country. - The degree of diversification in the Industry sector is very low, with a handful of industries accounting for a major portion of total output, and exports in particular.	- Uncertainties in the business environment due to: ▪ Inconsistent macro-economic policies ▪ Erratic trade regime ▪ Politicization of decision-making ▪ Bureaucratic incompetence and corruption - Labour market rigidities, due to: ▪ Archaic labour laws ▪ A dearth of professional and technical skills ▪ A lack of entrepreneurial capacity and culture ▪ Poor infrastructure ▪ Issues with access to land & capital ▪ Weak linkages with regional and international value chains

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recently, the rapid industrialization of small developing economies has been greatly impacted by the connectivity of their industries to regional and global value chains. However, the connectivity of our industries to regional and international value chains remains weak. | |
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Recommendations

- Consistent and predictable macro-economic and trade policy regime.
- Evidence- and expert advice-based policy formulation, with stakeholder participation.
- A level playing field for all, without favouritism and crony capitalism.
- Time-bound and clearly-defined infant industry protection.
- Transparent and careful identification of strategic investments.
- Promote of value chains of large enterprises and SMEs.
- Provide technology and other support to SMEs.
- Adequate venture capital and project-based loans.
- Transactions with state entities for licenses, permits, etc. to be open, transparent and competitive.
- State investments in infrastructure to be based on expert advice.
- Education reforms aimed towards developing entrepreneurship and business skills.

National Policy Outline: International Labour Migration

Vision

That migrant labour will be free of exploitation, neglect and abuse, both at home and abroad.

Overarching Principles

- Use foreign employment as a means of transferring technological know-how from destination countries to Sri Lanka.
- Use foreign employment as a means to soften income disparities.
- Use foreign employment as a tool to address youth unemployment and under-employment.

Approaches

- Supportive domestic legislation.
- Provision of services for migrants and families at a community level.
- Provision of alternatives to migrant labour.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
Current policies on international labour migration include: - Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Act, No. 85 of 1985 and subsequent amendments. - National Labour Migration Policy - National Migration Health Policy. - National Human Resources Development Policy. - National Policy for Decent Work in Sri Lanka. - National Policy on HIV/AIDS for World of Work. - Tertiary Education and Vocational Training strategies for vulnerable groups, including migrant workers.	- Sri Lanka's national development plans have failed to consider labour migration as a strategy for the country's development. - The lack of adequate safeguards to protect Workers' Welfare Fund, to prevent misuse. - Ineffectiveness of the Labour Migration Advisory Committee, Memoranda of Understanding and bilateral agreements to ensure migrant welfare including the implementation of the National Migration Health Policy.

Recommendations

- Establish the dignity of the migrant worker by duly recognizing his/her role in supporting the national economy.
- Give due recognition to the subject of international labour migration in national development plans as a vital factor in the economy.
- Aim to change the current emphasis on low-skilled migration to the skilled flow of migration.
- Enhance bilateral and regional cooperation on issues of labour migration, through more viable mechanisms.
- Protect the human rights of migrant workers, while respecting decent work policies.
- Enhance social security protection schemes to ensure that the migrant worker is secure throughout the migration cycle.
- Curb any exploitation associated with the migration process.
- Incorporate a meaningful reintegration policy to curtail the re-migration of skilled workers.

National Policy Outline: Land

Vision

Rational utilization of land as a resource in order to ensure human security, social equity, preservation of open spaces, environmental quality and ecological sustainability to improve the quality of life of human beings and protect other living beings.

Overarching Principles

- Equity.
- Ecologically sustainability.
- Social desirability.
- Environmental soundness.
- Aesthetic appeal.
- Physical suitability.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- The use of urban land has increased from 0.3% in 1956 to 1.48% in 2013. The extent of land used by home gardens has increased from 8.9% in 1956 to 25.7% in 2013. This can be attributed to rapid urbanization, particularly in Colombo and Gampaha. - Decline of the extent and quality of the natural forest cover from 44.1% in 1956 to 23.74% in 2013. Most of the forest lands at present are degraded. The highest change between 1983 and 1992 occurred in the Districts of Gampaha and Killinochchi. - Decline in the Land-Man Ratio (ha/man) from 1.8 in 1901 to 0.3 in 2000. The Ratio for arable land in 2000 was 0.15 ha/man. - Encroachment of state lands, predominantly on Environmentally Sensitive Areas. - There is misuse of land due to garbage dumping on good agricultural land; cultivation on natural grasslands; the use of good agricultural land for the extraction of gravel, clay, minerals, sand, and gems; and improper land use activities, leading to salinization and water logging. - There are problems related to land degradation due to a high level of environmental degradation, manifested in heavy soil losses, the transportation of soil by rivers and streams causing sedimentation of reservoirs, downstream floods, low productivity and nutrient depletion, increased soil toxicity, soil compaction, landslides, floods, siltation, low irrigation capacity, and low hydropower generating capacity. - Currently, Sri Lankan citizens are faced with issues such as land fragmentation, tenure and ownership issues, over the extraction of ground water and water contamination. - Among rural land users, however, paddy lands have increased as a result of settlement schemes in the dry zone. On the other hand, in densely populated areas, paddy fields have been converted for urban use.	- Lack of proper commitment by institutions and individuals (i.e. ineffectiveness of existing policies). - Delays in revising Acts and Policies. - Lack of trained personnel, technologies and equipment e.g. for title registration. - Adverse involvement of political and power groups. - Inadequacy of capacity of institutions to cater to current and future needs. - Lack of concern for law enforcement. - Lack of coordination among related agencies. - Priority issues cannot be addressed successfully (i.e. issues in implementation of land slide mitigation programs).

Recommendations

- Establish a National Land Commission (NLC) in accordance with the 13th Amendment to the Constitution [certified on 14th November 1987]:
 - Formulate a national policy with regard to the use of State land.
 - Include representatives of all Provincial Councils in the NLC.
 - Set up a Technical Secretariat under the NLC representing all the relevant disciplines to evaluate physical and socioeconomic factors relevant to natural resources management.
 - Ground the national policy on land use on technical aspects.
 - Enable Provincial Councils to exercise the powers devolved on them, having due regard to the national policy formulated by the NLC.
- Strengthen the existing institutional framework.
- Coordinate among related institutions.
- Fulfill the constitutional recommendations (i.e., re: National Land Commission).
- Ensure sustainable land utilization.
- Adopt an integrated approach to land management.
- Ensure balanced regional development.
- Allocate land based on suitability.
- Ensure equal access to land resources.

National Policy Outline: Local Governance

Vision

Local governance based on stakeholder participation, consensus politics, and an efficient management of resources, leading to harmonious and community living and good governance.

Overarching Principles

- Democracy.
- Consensus politics.
- Harmony.
- Participatory decision-making.
- Accountability.
- Transparency.
- Reconciliation.
- Gender equality.

Approaches

- Contribute to the development of a legal and institutional framework necessary for good governance at all levels.
- Contribute to the sensitization of stakeholders, regarding the vision and the commitment of political and civil society actors.
- To build capacities of local government institutions, so that they can mobilize the necessary resources and make use of the powers vested in them.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- A constitutional amendment needed to empower Local Councils has not been effected. Currently, there is a lack of adequate legal provisions to facilitate local governance. - The National Policy on Local Government accepted by the Government in 2007 is not an alternative to the desired constitutional amendment. - The policy has not spelled out practices that are easily accessible to all. - Though the existing policy sanctions consensus politics, the lack of electoral reforms has made this impractical. - The legal provisions pertaining to “Janasabha” have not been harmonized with the National Policy. - The National Policy provides for poverty alleviation but there exists no legal provision for this.	- As the third tier of Government, Local Government has not been afforded a clear place within the overall national governance framework of the country. - Determinations of cadre for Local Government institutions are not dependent on the requirements of Local Government institutions. - The existence and functioning of a parallel system of administration under the divisional secretariat often in isolation of Local Government. - Consensus politics, though prescribed for Local Government, does not materialize at local level. - The relevant policies are still alien to local people.

<u>Recommendations</u>
- Reintroduce the previous system of exclusive Local Government service. - The Local Council Leader and Divisional Secretary should be made co-chairs of the Divisional Development Committee. - Introduce social audit for Local Government institutions and strengthen community organizations and women’s participation. - Promote people’s participation in Local Government. - Provide adequate human and material resources based on sound criteria. - Institutionalize a grievance redress mechanism for the benefit of local communities and other stakeholders.

National Policy Outline: Poverty

Vision

Empowering the poor to move out of poverty, and enabling them to lead dignified and productive lives.

Overarching Principles

Poverty analysis shows that interventions to alleviate poverty unwittingly keep the poor continuously in a state of low productivity and poverty. The way out of this situation is to identify and build on their capacities, collective productivity, social savings and investment, and empower the poor for their own emancipation.

Approaches

- The current top-down approach to poverty alleviation to pave the way for a bottom-up and more pluralistic approach.
- Planning process to follow the Subsidiary Principle and mobilize local and sub-national units of Government to facilitate development.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- Poverty alleviation has been largely discussed from the perspectives of international organizations, such as the IMF/WB vision (1996) and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG). - Sri Lanka needs to adopt a more bottom-up approach to poverty alleviation, based on people's expectations and demands for a better life. - '<i>Regaining Sri Lanka</i>' (2003) was a response to poverty, in line with the structural adjustment policies of the Government. - Samurdhi is largely a way of providing subsidies to the poor and maintaining them just above (or around) the poverty line.	- These gaps are unavoidable, and have consequences resulting from the archaic 'vision' and 'values' upheld by successive governments in designing poverty alleviation programmes. - At the top of the Samurdhi Pyramid is the Government, and the poor are at the bottom. This indicates the top-down nature of present state interventions. - The official poverty rate has come down statistically from 28.8% to 15%, but have the 'poorest of the poor', along with the expanded middle-income group, adopted satisfying and sustainable life styles? The answer would be negative. - Statistical poverty reduction hides large regional disparities, inequalities between the rich and the poor, nutritional deficits throughout rural areas and youth unemployment.

Recommendations

- Moving from subsidies to empowerment.
- Promote **responsible citizenship**, to trigger a socio-cultural transformation in good governance and needs-based development.
- **Empower and build capacities of the 'poor'** to make the Government accountable and responsive to the poor.
- Help communities and ethnic and religious groups change their narrow and hostile behavior towards each other, and instead concentrate on their collective efforts for their own development and well-being.
- New forms of continuing education, training and capacity building to promote productive and sustainable livelihoods and consumption patterns.
- Empower impoverished masses, and allow their productive capacities and inventive potentials to be identified and harnessed.

National Policy Outline: Public Sector Reforms

Vision

A vibrant and world class public sector, in order to provide strategic leadership for public policy-making for an efficient, effective and people-friendly public service delivery system, based on principles of good governance.

Overarching Principles

- Responsive and accountable service delivery to citizens.
- Professionalism in the public service, doing away with political patronage in recruitment and promotion.
- Equitable access for all citizens to public services.
- Value for money for services to citizens.

Approaches

- To establish a Public Sector Reform Committee directly under the purview of the President or the Prime Minister and comprising professionals and practitioners.
- To design an implementation mechanism to give effect to the new policy once it is formulated.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- From time to time, the government has introduced project-based interventions with foreign assistance to re-structure public sector organizations, simplify work processes and rationalize functions. These have not been sustained nor replicated across the sector. - Privatization of public enterprises was carried out in the 1990s, but its purpose was unclear. Corruption and malpractice in the privatization process resulted in the courts handing their ownership back to the government, which gave misleading signals to private sector investors. - Human resource management in the public sector is not based on the cadre requirements of state agencies. The mass recruitment of unemployed graduates is based more on political decisions than the needs of organizations. The Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) reports for 2011 and 2013 have pointed out that several public enterprises continue to make heavy losses due to unqualified people being appointed to key management positions. Yet, the situation remains unchecked.	- There is no clear policy for rational allocation of functions of the government, and human resource management in the public sector. - It is unclear as to whether the government should continue to provide goods and services in certain sectors through its own institutions. - It is unclear as to why some of the loss-making public enterprises continue to be retained by the government as they could be transferred to the private sector. - There is no rationalization of allocations of functions horizontally and vertically, although a few <i>ad hoc</i> policy reform attempts have been undertaken in the past. - Tax payers do not feel that they receive 'value for money' services from the government.

- In 1998, the government introduced a performance appraisal system with a view to improving performance in the public sector. However, its initial vigour did not last long. Performance evaluations focus on financial and physical outputs, rather than outcome and impact. - The application of information communication technology has resulted in office automation of almost all of the government agencies. This has significantly contributed to increase efficiency in service delivery.	- In 1986, the President appointed an Administrative Reforms Committee (ARC), also referred to as the Wanasinghe Committee, which deliberated extensively for two years and produced ten sessional reports on various aspects of public sector reforms with very valuable recommendations. These recommendations have not been considered seriously by successive governments.
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Recommendations

- A high level National Policy Planning Commission should be established under the head of state. The body should comprise of senior political executives, senior public servants, professionals and civil society representatives. Its mandate should be to provide mega policy guidelines to all government agencies. The continuity and consistency of this body should be ensured through appropriate legal provisions.
- There should be an independent commission created by an Act of Parliament to address all policy matters of public corporations. Public corporations should be divided into two categories – public enterprises engaging in business; and other entities providing (regulatory) services to the people with funds from the national budget. The first category should come under the proposed commission. They should operate on market principles and be competitive in the market. The other category should be converted to government departments.
- The public sector human resource management policy should be based on principles of meritocracy. All recruitments should be based on the human resource needs of organizations. The policy should be applied to public corporations as well.
- Since national policies are applicable to provincial councils, they should formulate policies in line with the national policy guidelines set out by the proposed national policy planning commission.

National Policy Outline: Science and Technology

Vision

A prosperous nation of scientifically literate and innovative people, with a strong and stable economy based on highly developed scientific and technological capabilities.

Overarching Principles

The values to be promoted through this policy include; value for scientific literacy and innovativeness, appreciation and understanding of sustainable development, a strong sense of social justice, and value for scientific research and evidence-based decision making at all levels of government.

Approaches

Science and Technology is an area that cuts across many sectors. Therefore, the policy must consider the requirements and needs of sectors such as health, agriculture, energy, environment, transport, industry, economy and education. The approach is to upgrade the current policy with clear research priorities in the above areas and increase funding for research and development in all science-dependent sectors.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- A cabinet-approved National Science and Technology Policy has been in place since 2008, but has not been fully implemented. Science and Technology has not been given due recognition in national policy formulation and implementation. - Resources, both financial and physical, are insufficient. - The education system is not geared to make Science and Technology appealing to bright students to pursue related careers. - Brain drain due to an insufficiently conducive environment for research and development. - Delays in acquiring resources (delays in procurement procedures etc.). - Sri Lanka has not prioritized the field of Science and Technology, much as it has Information and Communication Technology, Biotechnology and Nanotechnology, where it can create wealth and jobs. - Insufficient political commitment towards Science and Technology. - Insufficient application of Science and Technology in sectors such as agriculture, health, environment, energy etc. - The private sector does not take risks to commercialize new inventions. - A lack of collective efforts by professional Science and Technology bodies (SLAAS, IESL, Institute of Chemistry, Institute of Physics, Institute of Biology, National Academy of Sciences, Inst. of Architects) to make their voices heard to the highest political leadership (President). - A lack of mechanisms to commercialize Research and Development findings by local scientists.	- Need for a clear policy for funding research (in terms of research fields, priority fields). - Policy initiatives needed to promote local product development (venture capital etc.). - Need for a national drive and resource allocation towards innovation. - Upgrading and updating the cabinet approved National Science and Technology policy is required.

Recommendations

- A new policy is not necessary, as the 2008 policy is comprehensive. However, it needs to be updated and upgraded.
- There is a need for the voice of scientists to be heard collectively for policy implementation, by enabling lobbying with politicians and officials at the top.
- Need for adequate participation of scientists in the decision making processes of the government with regard to Science and Technology, such as through the establishment of advisory boards.
- Establish powerful committees to implement Science and Technology policies, based on, for example, the Indian model.
- Establish a separate Ministry for Science and Technology.
- An organogram of institutional arrangement for Science and Technology to be mapped out to including universities and other research organizations and their boards.

National Policy Outline: Senior Citizens

Vision

A community of socially and economically integrated senior citizens.

Overarching Principles

- To enable legal provisions for employment, health insurance and social security.
- To work towards an inclusive, barrier-free and age-friendly society.
- To develop formal and informal social support systems to facilitate senior citizens.
- To promote healthy and spiritual living for senior citizens and long term care for both preventative and curative purposes.

Approaches

- A shift from a welfare approach to a developmental and rights-based approach.
- Values are incorporated.
- New care systems are identified rather than depending on institutions.
- National health insurance schemes are provided for senior citizens.
- The age of retirement is increased.
- Interactions between senior citizens and young people of different age groups are facilitated and strengthened.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- The proportion of the population 60 years and over has increased from 6.6% in 1981 to 9.2% in 2001 and 12.4% in 2012. In addition, 25% of the population will be over 60 years in 2040. - Female senior citizens are more vulnerable to health problems, due to longer life spans and less economic resources and income security. - There is no vision statement in the current policies. - Rights of senior citizens are highlighted but values are not being promoted. - Senior citizens are not a homogeneous group of people. Gender, class, urban, rural estate, specific age groups etc. need to be recognized. - Senior citizens are not viewed as an asset, but rather a liability in the process of nation building and socio-economic development.	- Low budgetary allocations and lack of social security benefits. - Decreasing intergenerational support systems, which can push a larger proportion of senior citizens into poverty. - Lack of coordination among ministries and other civil society organizations. - Lack of coordination among Government officers at the local and regional level. - Lack of an efficient service delivery. - Need for a developmental approach where senior citizens are seen as a valuable resource rather than a burden to society. - Need to promote productive ageing. - Need for an effective mechanism for implementation and monitoring. - Need to address land and property issues. - <u>Not included in the Constitution.</u>

Recommendations

- Establish Focal Points in all related ministries and departments.
- Establish coordinating committees at the District Secretariat (DS) Level, with the initiation of the DS and Senior Citizens Right Promotion Officer to facilitate coordination among different Government officers, NGOs and CBOs.
- Strengthen the National Secretariat and the Council for senior citizens.
- Establish an interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral mechanism (steering committee) within the Government to oversee the effective implementation of the national policy and any updates.
- Identify and use channels of information to reach senior citizens.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at the national and provincial levels.
- Establish hospices in every district for the care of senior citizens without family support.
- Implement a mandatory levy for the care of senior citizens.

National Policy Outline: Social Cohesion and National Reconciliation

Vision

A cohesive, democratic, peace-loving society with common aspirations and a Sri Lankan identity.

Overarching Principles

- Mutual trust.
- Justice.
- Inclusivity.
- Equality.
- Respect.
- Integrity.

Approaches

- Formulate a definition for 'reconciliation' that would be acceptable to all Sri Lankans.
- Learn from past mistakes.
- Build trust among communities.
- Open communication channels and build bridges between communities.
- Involve the diaspora communities (Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim and Burgher).
- Address the question of "who to reconcile with whom?" by making it a mutual process.
- Promote public discussions on what is national identity.
- Address misconceptions that portray 'reconciliation' as an elite, foreign-funded project.
- Internalize concepts such as belonging, responsibility, peaceful coexistence and respect for others' identities.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission recommendations - National Policy Framework on Social Integration - Human Rights Action Plan - Maithripala Sirisena Manifesto - Mahinda Chinthana and The Way Forward - Official Languages Policy - National Policy on Social Cohesion and Peace - Public Administration Circulars - Education policies on religion and language - 13th and 19th Amendments to the Constitution - Code of Ethics for Journalists and Parliamentarians - Witness and Victims Protection Act - Religion – Interfaith Policy Dialogue - Women Headed Households Policies (war widows) - Education – social policies/Peace Education policy - Tri-Lingual Sri Lanka policy - Universal Declaration of Human Rights	- No existing policy mechanisms aimed at reconciliation. - Lack of an acceptable definition on 'reconciliation.' - Lack of a common objective. - Need to address 'dividers.' - Need to address justice and (in)equality. - No proper methods for monitoring and evaluation. - Lack of documentation. - Lack of policies targeting the Sri Lankan diaspora, migrants, asylum seekers, etc.

Recommendations

- Improve knowledge and skills to strengthen and promote the reconciliation process.
- Promote inter- and intra-group dialogue with a view to enhance understanding and mutual trust.
- Create a space for sustained stakeholder engagement in the reconciliation process.
- Create an enabling environment for bilingual and trilingual language implementation.
- Promote stakeholder dialogue and discussion fora at District and Provincial Council levels, from grassroots to elite levels.
- Ensure consistency, continuity and transparency in policy and project implementation.
- Adopt a top-bottom and bottom-up approach, which cultivates political will and grassroots level awareness.
- Introduce reconciliation into school curricula.

National Policy Outline: Transport

Vision

Easily accessible, comfortable, safe, affordable, economically and environmentally sustainable transport systems that will facilitate productive travel to achieve economic, social, cultural and leisure pursuits for all Sri Lankans.

Overarching Principles

- Equitable access to transport for all groups in society across geographic, social (age, class, gender, disability) without economic boundaries.
- Establishment of aesthetically pleasing modern transport infrastructure will be established.
- Focus on sustainable development, to ensure the minimization of congestion, containment of energy consumption and emissions; and the efficient management of resources required.

Approaches

- Introduce changes to legislation in several areas, repeal current practices and introduce new laws.
- Enable changes in investment patterns, such as increased spending towards public transport.
- Enable changes in the management of public institutions, so they are managed by the best professionals, who are not politically aligned.
- Enable changes to gazette integrated transport plans.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- There is an income-led increase in mobility, which requires urgent supply-side changes, which will not happen due to numerous transport policies being aligned to historic, economic and social conditions, which are not relevant today. - The high growth of motorization and vehicle ownership arising from increases in income and the deterioration of public transport puts pressure on roads and public spaces, which could create negative environmental, social and economic pressures. The current demand for road space requires it to be doubled over 12 years, which may not be possible for a densely populated area, such as the CMR (Colombo Metropolitan Region). - The vehicle importation and fuel tax regimes have created numerous anomalies in the market that have still not been able to dampen demand for vehicles. This has led to a high proportion of unsafe and inefficient vehicles that are difficult to manage on limited road networks. Regular ad hoc tax changes have only created explosive situations.	- Road Building as a strategy to manage congestion has clearly failed, even though the last decade saw over 4% of GDP being invested in road construction. The Government does not have any strategy to deal with this situation. - There has been no integration of Urban Land Use Strategy and Mobility Provision. Different agencies have continued to plan and provide in their respective areas without any regular consultation or integrated plans. This has led to high land prices, partitioning of agricultural lands and low density housing that is difficult to serve with public transport. - A special concern is increasing accidents, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, for whom very little road infrastructure is provided, despite 25% of all trips being non-motorized. There is no strategy to deal with this national problem in a scientific manner.

- Public spaces on roads, sidewalks and parks are constantly occupied by either moving or parked vehicles, leaving little space for walking or leisure activities in the city and suburbs. The impacts of vehicle emissions on air quality, and noise and visual pollution causes concern. - The cost of transport is increasing, due to congestion and system inefficiency, leading to an impact on the cost of living and the cost of doing business. Exports are becoming more costly, making Sri Lankan products uncompetitive in the world market. For example, the cost of transport within the CMR is as high as 9.9% of regional GDP. This is estimated to increase to 19.2% of GDP, as early as 2020. Traffic speeds are also expected to fall. This will result in economic growth slowing down below the target of 6.5% p.a. - The recent policy of the Government to invest in highways and provide operational subsidies for state-run public transport services should shift towards receiving investments in public transport, either from the state or private sources. - There has been a failure to arrest the deterioration in the quality of public transport. Due to poor service levels in public transport systems, passengers tend to move in private modes (such as motorcycles and three-wheelers). - Transport is a significant provider of employment. This is mostly at the unskilled level. There are an estimated 1 million drivers, helpers, labourers, loaders and similar indirect workers in the land transport industry. The pressure of unemployment leads to the creation of self-employment opportunities, leading to higher transport supply. The absence of the free market in these areas leads to higher fees and fares to support employment. - Currently, public transport is not usable by a large section of the population, including women, children, senior citizens and the disabled, due to a number of design and operational issues.	- Failure in aligning transport policy to modernize transport. No new modes of urban transport, such as BRT (Bus Rapid Transport), Bus Priority or rail systems such as the Metro, Monorail or Light Rail Transits (LRT) have been introduced. The preoccupation of the Ministry of Transport in operational issues pertaining to trains and buses is a primary reason for overlooking these areas. - Failure to invest in Urban Public Transport and Traffic Management. Many urban corridors are in urgent need of supplementary transport capacity, and should consider implementing BRT or Bus Priority systems. Road development should centre on accommodating public transport, instead of providing more lanes for general traffic. It is noted that investment for urban transport has not changed, even though investment for roads and railways have increased seven-fold over the last decade. - Failure of public transport institutions to improve sector performance. The sector needs to be reformed in terms of management and regulation, ahead of modernization. Institutional capacity is under-developed, and any improvements to public transport will require the improvement of human resources and regulatory and management regimes. This issue is linked to the politicization of public transport operations, regulation and management. - There should be strategic interventions to reduce inefficiencies in three-wheeler, van services and taxi operations, and make them cheaper, safer and more reliable. These industries are mostly unregulated, and have become attractive employment options, creating a huge oversupply and low productivity, pushing prices upwards.
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Recommendations

- Increase the choice of mobility options.
- Increase the use of modernized public transport.
- Improve access and ability to use public transport for a wider cross section of society, including women, children, senior citizens and the disabled.
- Reduce the cost of mobility.
- Ensure safety in mobility.
- Increase user rights and compensation.
- Improve the quality of urban life.
- Increase economic opportunities and decent employment in the transport sector.
- Reduce the use of energy as well as impact on the environment.
- Reduce the use of land for transport.
- Ensure only publicly accepted professionals are appointed to lead public institutions.
- Provide a political champion for improving the transport sector (which should not be limited to building roads).
- Invest at least 3% of GDP on modernizing existing public transport infrastructure, as well as new systems and services, for the next five years.
- Integrate the expressway programme with urban and rural development, so that new townships, industrial estates and tourist resorts can be harmonized for efficient and seamless mobility between consumption and production areas.

Institutional Changes

- Establish an Inter-Ministerial Committee for coordination of policy and planning of Transport.
- Expand the scope of the National Transport Commission Act.
- Establish a Committee for Metropolitan Transport Planning (CoMTRad).

National Policy Outline: Youth and Development

Vision

To develop the full potential of young people, in order to enable their active participation in national development for a just and equitable society.

Overarching Principles

- Promotion of an inclusive Sri Lankan identity.
- Respect for the long historical tradition of cultural diversity that has enriched Sri Lanka.
- Respect for equity and social justice in conceptualizing development.
- Promotion of the total wellbeing of youth, including physical, mental, spiritual, material and cultural.
- Ensure the active involvement of youth in decision-making, with respect to the management of public affairs and national development.
- Commitment to democratic principles and human rights as enshrined in the Sri Lankan Constitution and international covenants to which Sri Lanka is a party.
- Promotion of high standards of professionalism and integrity by all involved in youth work.
- Promotion of a broader worldview among youth, enabling them to appreciate the complexity of the world both within and outside the country.

<u>Current State</u>	<u>Gaps in Current Policies</u>
- The first National Youth Policy of Sri Lanka was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in 2014. An Action Plan to give effect to the Policy is being finalized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs. - The National Youth Policy has 3 pillars: 1. Ensuring youth: to make sure that there is a conducive, supportive and equitable environment and opportunities for youth to flourish. 2. Enabling youth: to create conditions where youth can be independent, creative, innovative and confident. 3. Empowering youth: to strengthen youth to participate and take responsibility on behalf of themselves, their community and humanity.	- Need for the appointment of a Youth Development Commission. - The lack of an institutional framework for implementation and monitoring and review system for the National Youth Policy. - The lack of policy to address the shortfall of qualified professional youth workers in the field. - There is no Ombudsperson to convey their feelings and seek redress, especially in the context of no access/right to information in Sri Lanka.

Recommendations

Appoint Youth Ombudsperson

- In response to the specific political and social history and context of Sri Lanka in relation to youth, it is proposed that an independent Youth Ombudsperson be appointed.
- This will serve as an independent body to advocate on behalf of youth issues.
- The primary responsibility of the Youth Ombudsperson will be to deal with complaints regarding the delivery of services to youth and instances of discrimination.
- The Youth Ombudsperson's office will also provide information on the services available to youth as well as their rights and obligations.
- Regional level youth ombudsperson offices should be established to facilitate its work.

Education

- The proposed Education Act for General Education in Sri Lanka formulated in 2009 needs to be enacted.
- Extend the age of compulsory education to 16 years.
- Increase allocation of resources for education to meet global standards agreed to by the Government.
- Standardize recruitment, and strengthen professionalism of education management and administration.
- Improve facilities in disadvantaged educational institutions to reduce disparities.
- Strengthen and provide adequate resources towards improving competencies in the English language and other national languages.
- Implement recommendations for inclusive education, as outlined in the National Policy for Disability in Sri Lanka, 2003.
- Strengthen alternative educational mediums, such as distance education, to increase opportunities for higher education.
- Increase the participation of youth in decision-making in educational institutions, through the strengthening of student associations, while ensuring that external interference and influence is minimized.
- Establish career guidance and academic counseling administered by adequately trained professionals in schools and universities, with inputs and links to potential employers.
- Strengthen non-formal educational activities in communities for out-of-school youth, especially school dropouts, and provide quality alternative training options and support for continuing education.

Skills Development and Vocational Training

- Promote awareness of skilled labour and non-traditional occupations.
- Introduce subsidized fee structures for Technical and Vocational Education and Training courses.
- Ensure that vocational training institutes are accredited and conduct competency-based training.
- Establish acceptable labour standards for skilled labour work.

Youth Employment

- Revisit and implement the National Action Plan for Youth Employment, 2007.
- Diversify employment opportunities across public, private and non-governmental sectors.
- Integrate youth needs into national level initiatives, such as poverty alleviation, human resource development and economic development.

- Establish labour standards and protection for youth in the informal sector.
- Establish a merit-based and rational system of employment for the public sector.
- Establish a complaint mechanism for those who have been discriminated by recruitment procedures, as well as strengthen the independence of the Public Service Commission
- Promote self-employment and entrepreneurship through facilitating links with regional chambers of commerce, so that young people have access to mentoring and other forms of support.
- Strengthen initiatives such as Jobs net, and create awareness among youth about the diverse and innovative job opportunities available in the public, private and non-governmental sectors.

Civics and Citizenship

- Establish community service for youth and promote volunteerism.
- Establish a reward system for recognizing outstanding community service among youth.
- Promote and encourage independent, youth-focused civil society initiatives.
- Review the juvenile justice system and propose amendments, including supervised community service in lieu of institutionalization.
- Take steps to ensure the freedom of movement and association of young people.

Professionalization of the Youth Work Sector

- Recognize and promote youth work as a distinctive professional category.
- Establish a professional association for youth workers independently managed by professionals.
- Promote youth work education and training, and make youth work education a requirement to be recruited as a youth worker.
- Take steps to develop occupational standards relating to youth work, and introduce a licensing system for youth workers based on their professional qualifications.

Health and Wellbeing

- Adopt and implement the National Policy and Strategy on Health of Young Persons, 2011 and the National Strategic Plan on Adolescent Health, 2012.
- Improve quality and access to youth-friendly health programmes and services.
- Review and improve school health programmes, expand and strengthen health education at the school level, and continue these services as appropriate in the higher education sector,
- Establish psycho-social services at the community level.
- Build the capacity of health professionals to respond to youth-related health issues.
- Provide protection and support services for young people who have experienced sexual violence and domestic abuse.
- Develop awareness among youth on lifestyle associated diseases, and promote physical activity, healthy lifestyles and nutritional habits.
- Enhance life skills on decision making and critical thinking to avoid risky behaviour.

Social Exclusion and Discrimination

- Review primary and secondary education curricula for discriminatory messages and revise accordingly.
- Develop equal opportunity policies in key sectors, especially with regard to job recruitment, and establish systems for implementation and review.
- Strengthen transparency, accountability and access to information in the public sector.
- Establish a Youth Ombudsperson to respond to instances of discrimination and exclusion.
- Create spaces for youth to participate meaningfully at the family, community and national levels.

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Peace and Reconciliation

- Include peace education and social cohesion in educational curricula.
- Implement special youth development initiatives, and allocate resources for war and poverty -affected areas so that they are on par with other regions.
- Extend opportunities for youth engagement and interaction between different communities.
- Explore and enhance opportunities for youth to interact and communicate with each other through arts, sports and culture.
- Ensure the Official Languages Policy is implemented in the public and private sectors, especially in law enforcement agencies.
- Promote educational institutions which are not segregated on the basis of gender, ethnicity, language and religion or other social divisions.

Arts, Recreation, Sports and Leisure

- Strengthen state support.
- Reward participation and achievement in arts and sports with respect to education and employment opportunities.
- Encourage private sector participation in the promotion of the arts and sports sectors for youth.
- Review global best practices in youth recreational programmes and adapt to national context.
- Strengthen and promote extra-curricular activities in educational institutions.
- Establish institutions to promote diverse arts and cultural activities.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF RESOURCE PERSONS

Policy Area	Resource Persons
Agriculture	Dr. C.S. Weerathne
	Mr. Malika Wimalasuriya
	Mr. Rizvi Zaheed
	Mr. Haridas Fernando
	Mr. Ariyasheela Wickramanayaka
	Dr. N.C. Kumarasinhe
Art and Culture	Dr. Michel Fernando
	Mr. Budadasa Galappaththi
	Mr. Saumya Liyanage
	Dr. Chandraguptha Thenuwara
Crime Prevention	Dr. Frank De Silva
	Mr. Janaka Rathnayake
	Prof. Jayasundara
	Mr. M.B.R. Bandara
	Mr. Gamini Kirindige
Disability	Dr. Chandani Liyanage
	Dr. Padmini Mendis
	Prof. Ramani Jayathilaka
	Mr. Aloka Weerasekara
	Mr. Asoka Weerawardana
Economy	Prof. Sirimal Abeyrathne
	Dr. P. Dunusinghe
	Mr. Rahula Senanayake
	Mr. R.M.B Senanayake
	Prof. S.S. Colombage
Education	Mr. S.M.A. De Alwis
	Mr. Upali Chandrasiri
	Ms. H.A.K.S. Sanjeewani
	Prof. Lakshman Jayathilaka
	Mr. J. Thilakarathne
Environment	Prof. Jayanthi De Silva
	Dr. Fareena Ruzaik
	Prof. L.M. Darmasiri
	Ms. Badra Herath
	Ms. Tharuka Dissanaik
Family Welfare	Prof. K. Karunathilaka
	Prof. Ramani Jaythilaka
	Dr. Lakshika Liyanage
	Mr. A Ranaweera

	Dr. Chandani Liyanage
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	Mr. Vijayasiri
	Ms. Pamela Kanthie Jayasekera
	Dr. Nimal Hettiarachchi
Gender Equality	Dr. Sepali Kottegoda
	Prof. Swarna Jayaweera
	Ms. Anberiya Haniffa
	Ms. Jayanthi Kuru-Utumpala
	Dr. Sermal Wijewardene
Health and Wellbeing	Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe
	Prof. Nalaka Mendis
	Dr. Pushpa Kumari Ranasinghe
	Dr. Neelamani S.R. Hewageeganage
	Dr. Susantha de Silva
	Dr. Sarath Samarage
	Prof. Narada Warnasuriya
	Dr. Palitha Abeykoon
	Dr. Susie Perera
	Dr. D.H. Tennakoon
	Dr. Athamaanathen
Housing	Prof. Krishan Deheragoda
	Dr. Nishara Fernando
	Dr. Chandrasiri Niriella
Industry	Mr. Anura Eknayake
	Mr. J.G.G. Ajith
	Mr. W.B.A Jayasekara
	Mr. Kelum Jayasumana
	Mr. Ariyasheela Wickramanayake
	Mr. Chathura Nanayakkara
	Mr. Kanishka Werasinghe
	Mr. Dheerasesekara
	Dr. Piyadasa Gamage
	Mr. Sugath Rajapaksha
	Mr. Jagath Siriwardana
	Ms. Malika B. Samaraweera
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	Mr. Shantha Kulasekara
	Dr. Bilesha Weerarathne

	Dr. Sunethra Perera
	Mr. Pradeep Saputhanthri
	Mr. Namal Weerasena
	Mr. Daminda Hettiarachchi
Land	Prof. D. Wanasinghe
	Prof. J. Katupotha
	Ms. Shanthi Fernando
	Mr. B.A. Jayananda
	Mr. Sisira Hapuarachchi
	Ms. Padma Weerakoon
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	Mr. P.S. Dharmarathne
	Mr. Sarath Wickramarathne
	Mr. P.J.Y. Muthukumarana
	Mr. Dhammika mahendra
	Mr. Lal Siva
Poverty	Mr. Nandasiri Gamage
	Mr. Bernard Kariyawasam
	Mr. K.Krishnaraj
	Dr. Udan Fernando
	Prof. Sunethra Thennakoon
	Mr. Sisira Kumara
Public Sector Reforms	Mr. S. Ranugge
	Mr. Ariyaratne Hewage
	Dr. Maringa Sumanadasa
	Mr. R.M.B. Senanayake
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	Dr. Thanthirigoda
	Dr. Ajith Pasqual
	Mr. T. Ariyananda
	Mr. Nalaka Gunawardana
	Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara
	Prof. Ajith de Alwis
	Prof. Kumudini
	Dr. Kumar Rupasinghe
	Dr. Dayan Rajapakse
	Mr. Yasas Abeywickrama
	Mr. Kanishka Sugathadasa
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	Dr. Lakshika Liyanage
	Mr. A Ranaweera
	Dr. Chandani Liyanage
	Prof. Manjula Vidanapathirana

	Prof. K. Karunathilaka
Social Cohesion and National Reconciliation	Dr. Maneesha W. Pasqual
	Prof. S.T. Hettige
	Mr. Shantha Gamlath
	Ms. Kamy Jayathissa
	Ms. Lihini Rathwatthe
	Mr. Liyanarachchi
	Mr. Vidya Abeygunawardhana
	Mr. M.Thiruchelvam
	Mr. Niyas
	Ms. Dayani Panagoda
Transport	Prof. Amal Kumarage
	Prof. S.T. Hettige
Youth and Development	Dr. Shantha Abeysinghe
	Mr. Anton Priyarthne
	Mr. Shantha Fernando
	Mr. Arumugam
	Mr. Sagara Chandrasekara

ANNEX 2: LIST OF COORDINATORS

Policy area	Coordinator
1. Agriculture	Dr. C.S. Weerathna
2. Art and Culture	Dr. Michael Fernando
3. Crime Prevention	Dr. Frank de Silva
4. Disability	Dr. Chandani Liyanage
5. Economy	Prof. Sirimal Aberathne
6. Education	Mr. S.M.A De Alwis
7. Environment	Prof. Jayanthi de Silva
8. Family Welfare	Prof. K. Karunathilaka
9. Foreign Relations	Mr. Dinesh Casie Chetty
10. Gender Equality	Dr. Sepali Kottegoda
11. Health and Wellbeing	Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe
12. Housing	Prof. Krishan Deheragoda
13. Industry	Mr. Anura Eknayake
14. International Labour Migration	Mr. L.K. Ruhunage
15. Land	Prof. D. Wanasinghe
16. Local Governance	Mr. Palitha Abeywardana
17. Poverty	Mr. Nandasiri Gamage
18. Public Sector Reforms	Mr. S. Ranugge
19. Science and Technology	Prof. J.K.D.S. Jayaneththi
20. Senior Citizens	Prof. Ramani Jayathilaka
21. Social Cohesion and National Reconciliation	Dr. Maneesha W. Pasqual
22. Transport	Prof. Amal Kumarage
23. Youth and Development	Dr. Shantha Abeysinghe

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