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வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள், வெளிநாட்டு வேலைவாய்ப்பு மற்றும் சுற்றுலாத்துறை அமைச்சு  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT AND TOURISM

## MEDIA RELEASE

### UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific Kanni Wignaraja calls on the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

The UN Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Kanni Wignaraja called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism Vijitha Herath on Monday, 03 August 2026, during an official mission to Sri Lanka.

At the meeting, Assistant Secretary General Wignaraja commended Sri Lanka's recovery process led by the Government which has created a positive momentum and global narrative on the country's development outlook, which she noted is a crucial factor in attracting investment and advancing tourism. She expressed the UNDP's readiness as Sri Lanka's longstanding development partner, to further assist the country's socio-economic advancement, including via the forthcoming UNDP Country Development Programme for the period 2028-2032.

The meeting also focussed on the UNDP's support towards a range of sectors including the Government's digitalization drive, renewable energy, promotion of SMEs, skills and capacity development of the Sri Lankan workforce, climate financing including climate credits, green and blue bonds and innovative financing solutions, health, as well as tourism. Foreign Minister Herath extended his appreciation for the support extended by ASG Wignaraja in her capacity as the UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. Senior officials of the Foreign Ministry were associated with the meeting.

Assistant Secretary General Wignaraja, during her official visit, also called on the Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya and the Deputy Minister of Digital Economy Eranga Weeraratne, and had consultations with senior government officials and interlocutors, as well as multilateral development partners.

The UNDP has been a longstanding development partner of the Government of Sri Lanka for over 55 years, supporting sustainable economic development, democratic governance, climate action, disaster resilience and social cohesion. The UNDP has extended its assistance during Sri Lanka's economic recovery for the financial crisis, and has recently assisted communities affected by Cyclone Ditwah through early recovery and resilience-building initiatives.

ASG Wignaraja is the highest-ranking Sri Lankan official currently in the United Nations system. She has a distinguished career spanning more than 30 years, holding senior leadership positions across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Geneva, and New York.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism  
Colombo**

**05 August 2026**

**Foreign Affairs**  
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வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள்

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17 අවනු.තන, "මෙහෙවර පියස", නාරාහේන්පිට, கொழும்பு 5

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