

Executive Summit on Sri Lanka's Third Voluntary National Review of SDGs (VNR) 2027



The Executive Summit on Sri Lanka's Third Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2027 was successfully held on 8 September 2026. Organized by the Sustainable Development Council, with the support of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Summit brought together key stakeholders representing the government, private sector, development partners, academia, civil society and other sectors. The Summit provided an important platform to introduce the VNR 2027 process and timeline, while enabling stakeholders to share their perspectives, experiences and insights and contribute to shaping Sri Lanka's Third VNR.

Delivering the keynote remarks, Dr. Harshana Suriyapperuma, Secretary to the Treasury and Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, highlighted that Sri Lanka's Third VNR comes at a particularly important moment for the country. Following several years of severe economic and fiscal challenges, Sri Lanka has entered a new phase of economic recovery and reform. He emphasized that the progress achieved during 2025 demonstrates how difficult reforms can lay the foundation for renewed economic activity, stronger fiscal management and improved external resilience.

He further highlighted the importance of the collective effort required to advance sustainable development, noting the participation of representatives from government institutions, private sector, civil society, academia and key development partners. He emphasized the importance of the VNR process for public sector institutions in demonstrating the progress, priorities and development needs of their respective sectors, thereby providing an evidence-based basis for articulating their financing and resource requirements.

The Summit reaffirmed that the VNR is beyond a reporting exercise, but a collective national process that provides an opportunity to reflect on progress, identify remaining challenges and accelerate action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.