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JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

The EU Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP+) assessment of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka covering the period 2023-2025

Accompanying the document

Joint Report to the European Parliament and the Council

on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences covering the period 2023-2025

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1. Executive Summary

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka) has benefitted from the EU's Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP+) since 2017, when GSP+ was reinstated for the country. Sri Lanka is the third largest GSP+ beneficiary. In 2024, imports utilising GSP+ preferences amounted to EUR 1.5 billion and the share of GSP+ eligible products in total imports remained at 83.5 %. Sri Lanka benefited from an estimated EUR 139 million in tariff exemptions in 2024. With a GSP+ utilisation rate of 68.9 % in 2024, there is great potential for the country's economy to benefit further from GSP+. Overall trade relations with the EU are governed by the Cooperation Agreement¹ from 1995. Sri Lanka's political landscape has undergone significant changes during the reporting period and the effects of its severe 2022 economic crisis continued to be felt.

During the 2023-2025² monitoring period, including an EU GSP+ monitoring mission in May 2025, Sri Lanka showed an increasing level of compliance with its GSP+ obligations while deficiencies remained. During 2025, the new government advanced under good governance on its anti-corruption agenda. It also committed to address longstanding human rights concerns, including repealing the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), reforming the Online Safety Act enacted in 2024, enabling civic space, establishing transparency about the past violations, and independent investigation of emblematic cases, undertaking legal reforms and effective implementation to ensure equality and non-discrimination, among others. However, practical implementation remains slow and uneven. On labour rights, Sri Lanka continued positive steps on eliminating child labour and actions at the national level were effectively implemented. Protective measures for workers going abroad, particularly for women, were strengthened. However, issues relating to freedom of association, also in Free Trade Zones (FTZ) still need to be addressed, including the right to collective bargaining. Adopting and implementation of anti-discrimination measures remain a challenge.

To ensure continued GSP+ eligibility, in particular in view of the revised GSP rules as of 2027, the main priorities for future engagement include: repealing the PTA and reforming anti-terrorism legislation in line with international standards; protecting civic and democratic space; ensuring freedom of expression by amending the Online Safety Act; strengthening domestic accountability mechanisms and ensuring independent prosecutions; advancing an inclusive, victim-centred reconciliation process; fostering gender equality and combating domestic, sexual, and gender based violence and child abuse; addressing the persistence of child labour, restrictions on collective bargaining and freedom of association, and concerns regarding compulsory labour; improving data quality and institutional implementation capacity in the areas of environmental protection and climate; combatting drug trafficking while respecting human rights in line with international conventions, and continued strengthening of anti-corruption frameworks.

2. Key Developments

2.1 Political and Economic Developments

Sri Lanka's political landscape has undergone significant changes during the reporting period. The election of Anura Kumara Disanayake as President in September 2024, with his left-leaning National People's Power (NPP) securing 159 of 225 parliamentary seats, marked a major shift from the long-standing dominance of traditional parties³. The NPP government won their large majority in the Parliament with an agenda of a deep economic, political and social reform, and anti-corruption.

Sri Lanka faced a severe economic crisis in 2022, culminating in a historical debt default. The crisis disproportionately affected the poor, especially those in the agricultural sector, with 62 % of the estate population living under the poverty line in 2024⁴. The country's economy gradually recovered to growth of 5 % in 2024, contributing to GDP per capita of USD 4 325 that year. Under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, Sri Lanka has gradually made progress, with fiscal consolidation improving and export-led growth. However, the destruction caused by cyclone Ditwah in November 2025 had again a negative impact on the already fragile socio-economic situation, access to basic services, and the pace of economic recovery. The Government responded with cash transfers, welfare packages and reconstruction allocations from the national budget. Public debt remains high, and foreign direct investment (FDI) is low due to regulatory barriers and policy uncertainty.

Sri Lanka was classified as a lower-middle-income country by the World Bank in 2025, and thus continues to meet the economic vulnerability criteria set in the GSP Regulation.

2.2 GSP+ Trade Impact

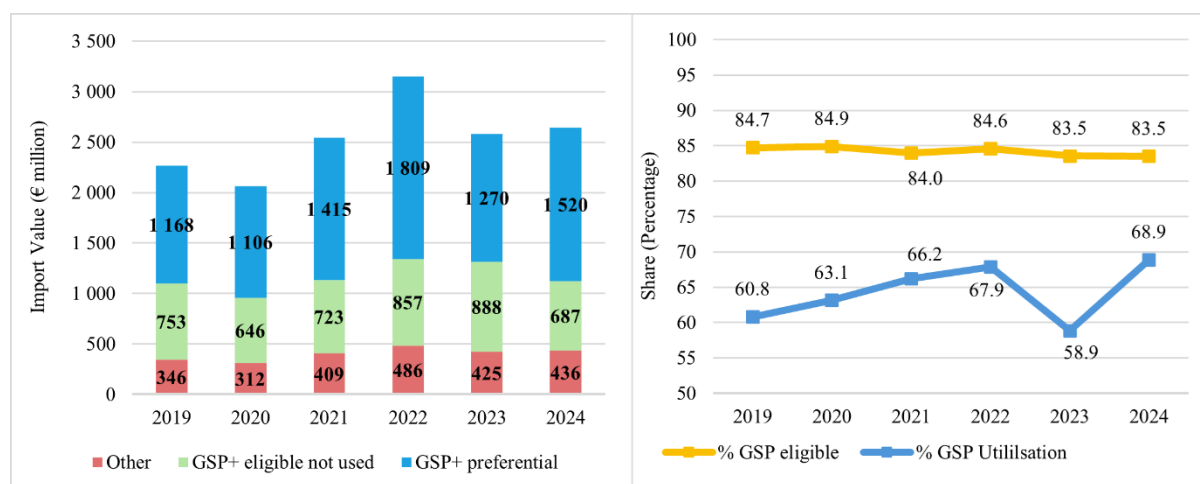
Between 2022 and 2024⁵, EU imports from Sri Lanka declined from EUR 3.2 billion to EUR 2.6 billion, corresponding to an average annual decrease of 8.4 %. EU imports from Sri Lanka represented 0.11 % of the EU's total imports in 2024. Imports of GSP+ eligible products decreased from EUR 2.7 billion in 2022 to EUR 2.2 billion in 2023 and EUR 2.2 billion in 2024. Imports utilising GSP+ preferences fell from EUR 1.8 billion in 2022 to EUR 1.3 billion in 2023 and then increased to EUR 1.5 billion in 2024. The share of GSP+ eligible products in total imports remained below 85 %, at 84.6 % in 2022 and 83.5 % in both 2023 and 2024. Furthermore, the GSP+ utilisation rate first declined from 67.9 % in 2022 to 58.9 % in 2023, before improving to 68.9 % in 2024.

As a result of GSP+, Sri Lanka benefited from an estimated EUR 139 million in tariff exemptions in 2024. This corresponded to around 5 % of Sri Lanka's export value to the EU in 2024.

Figure 1. EU imports from Sri Lanka and GSP+ utilisation rate, 2019-2024

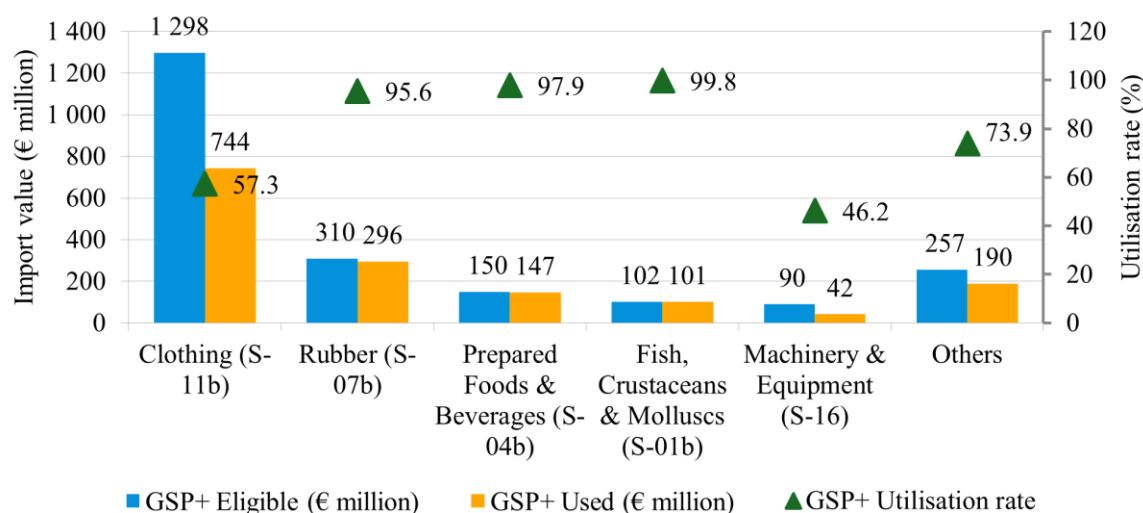
Indicators	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Annual Growth (2022-2024)
Total imports, (EUR million)	2 266.8	2 064.2	2 545.7	3 152.1	2 583.0	2 643.3	-8.4 %
GSP+ eligible, (EUR million)	1 920.3	1 752.7	2 137.2	2 666.3	2 158.1	2 207.0	-9.0 %
GSP+ used, (EUR million)	1 167.8	1 106.4	1 414.5	1 809.5	1 270.1	1 520.2	-8.3 %
Share of GSP+ eligible in total	84.7 %	84.9 %	84.0 %	84.6 %	83.5 %	83.5 %	
GSP+ utilisation rate	60.8 %	63.1 %	66.2 %	67.9 %	58.9 %	68.9 %	
MFN=0 % imports, (EUR million)	379.9	339.4	434.2	501.9	440.8	437.4	-6.6 %
Share of MFN=0 % imports	16.8 %	16.4 %	17.1 %	15.9 %	17.1 %	16.5 %	

Figure 2. EU imports from Sri Lanka by trade regime and utilisation rates, 2019-2024



The sectors⁶ benefiting the most from GSP+ preferences in 2024 were (in order of significance): Clothing (S-11b), Rubber (S-07b), Prepared Foods & Beverages (S-04b), Fish, Crustaceans & Molluscs (S-01b) and Machinery & Equipment (S-16). Clothing accounted for the largest share of total EU imports from Sri Lanka, although its utilisation rate is relatively low at 57.3 %. Among the top five export sectors, Fish, Crustaceans & Molluscs recorded the highest GSP+ utilisation rate at 99.8 %.

Figure 3. Top product groups benefiting from GSP+ tariff preferences for Sri Lanka, 2024



3. Compliance with GSP+ Obligations

Sri Lanka has maintained its ratification of all 27 conventions without reservations. However, while the country remains compliant with reporting obligations for all eight labour conventions, its performance across other areas is mixed (see Annex). Significant reporting delays persist for several human rights treaties. In the environment and climate areas, Sri Lanka is largely compliant. Under governance, Sri Lanka fulfils its reporting obligations but failed to provide information on licit trade in, legitimate uses of, and requirements for substances.

Sri Lanka has continuously engaged with the EU GSP+ monitoring process through regular exchanges of information, including structured dialogue (Working Groups, Joint Commission) under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, and during a GSP+ monitoring mission that took place in April/May 2025. The following sections are based on the latest UN monitoring body reports and supplemented with information from civil society and GSP monitoring, including updates provided by the authorities.

3.1 Human Rights

Sri Lanka has taken some positive steps to strengthen its overall human rights framework. The Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee on Human Rights held its first meeting in February 2024, although concrete follow-up is unclear. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) regained its 'A' Status from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) in May 2024⁷.

Efforts have been made with regard to **economic and social rights**. The former Government introduced a poverty-targeted cash transfer scheme (*Aswesuma*) in 2023, reaching 2 million poor families. A National Social Protection Policy was also approved in July 2024, increasing government spending on social security⁸. However, the Government has limited fiscal space to balance poverty alleviation, social services and social protection, with the debt restructuring and fiscal consolidation. In this context, in 2025, the current Government has raised the personal income tax threshold to exempt more taxpayers with low incomes⁹. In the National Budget, the cash transfer scheme has been increased. After cyclone Ditwah, a new allocation was made to support the most affected population to rebuild their houses. Despite responsiveness of the Government, structural problems persist, including malnutrition and childhood stunting, and access to housing, health care and education by the poorest sectors of the population has been further hampered¹⁰.

Overall, **civic space** has somewhat improved since the 2024 elections as the Government has started introducing public consultations and interaction with civil society organisations. These public consultations should be more structured, inclusive, transparent, substantive, regulated, and implemented more consistently. While the Government committed to further enhance civic space and engagement, the registration, operation and funding of civil society organisations remain impacted by increasing administrative and legal requirements: in addition to mandatory registration with the National Secretariat for Non-governmental Organizations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) also need to obtain clearance from the Ministry of Defence¹¹ as of December 2024.

The new Government pledged to repeal or amend all pieces of **repressive legislation** that had been used in the past to oppress dissent or eliminate opposition. Regarding the controversial Online Safety Act, the Government decided in February 2025 to appoint a committee to propose amendments to the Act, and opened in August 2025 a public consultation on amending the OSA¹². At the time of drafting this report, amendments following consultations are not finalised. The 2007 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Act (section 3), that has been misused in the past against minorities and to restrict freedom of speech, has not been amended yet.

Regarding **counter terrorism legislation**, the new Government has committed to repeal **the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA)**, a long-standing priority under the GSP+ monitoring, and replace it with new legislation in line with international human rights standards and best practices. A draft Protection of the State from Terrorism Act (PSTA), was published and open for consultation in December 2025¹³. While the draft presents some improvements in relation

to the PTA, e.g. the removal of a provision which allows confession made to a police officer while in custody as admissible as evidence, and strengthened role of magistrates, it still contains elements incompatible with international standards, according to the United Nations (UN)¹⁴. At the time of drafting this report, the review of the draft PSTA following consultation has not been finalised. During the reporting period, the PTA continued to be used for the arrests and detentions of individuals, including in 2025 for expression of opinion on international conflicts, and arrests related to criminal activities¹⁵.

The trajectory of **reconciliation and accountability** also presents a mixed picture. The new Government won wide support in Tamil areas under the pledge to unite the nation and announced several promising initiatives following the 2024 elections. While some mechanisms have been strengthened, progress remains very slow. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the country in June 2025, urging to translate the positive momentum on reconciliation and accountability into tangible results¹⁶. The biannual Resolution on ‘Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka’ was adopted by the Human Rights Council in 2025. However, Sri Lanka opposed the external mechanism for investigation of past crimes, set up under the Resolution, and reiterated its commitment to establishing the truth through domestic mechanisms. A National Roadmap for Reconciliation and Coexistence (2025-2029) is reportedly still being developed.

The Government has allocated some resources to the Office of Missing Persons (OMP) to address all pending cases of missing and disappeared persons (over 16 000), before the end of 2027. Communities in the north and the east regained access to some land and partial access to some roads held by the military and were allowed to organise and participate in memorialisation initiatives. Disputes over land seizures, including by military, remain amongst the key barriers to reconciliation.

While the current Government prioritised ‘national unity’ and worked towards increasing minority representation in decision making-bodies, including use of both languages (Sinhala and Tamil) in official communication, structural issues of **discrimination** against ethnic and religious minorities persist¹⁷. There is no comprehensive legislation prohibiting all forms of racial discrimination. There are also reports of continued patterns of surveillance, intimidation and harassment of civil society actors and community leaders, especially in the Tamil majority area, and to those working on accountability for enforced disappearances and other conflict-related crimes¹⁸. Discriminatory attitudes against LGBTIQ+ persons also remain a problem and legislation to decriminalise consensual same-sex relations has yet to be adopted¹⁹.

As to **gender equality and women’s rights**, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) highlighted positive developments, including the approval of the Women's Empowerment Act in June 2024, the establishment of an independent National Commission on Women in October 2025, the appointment of an Ombudsperson for Women’s Rights and the establishment of a National Fund for Women to support gender equality initiatives²⁰. The authorities adopted the second phase of the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (2024–2028)²¹, which includes a special section on children^{22 23}. However, sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence, remains high. Conflict-related sexual violence remains unaddressed, depriving women survivors of their rights to truth, justice, accountability and reparations. CEDAW has requested written information by February 2027 on the steps taken by Sri Lanka on a number of issues, including violence against women and girls²⁴. Even though Sri Lanka has adopted the national action plan on combating trafficking in persons (2023–2026), CEDAW notes with concern that

trafficking in women and girls has increased and has further deteriorated in the context of the country's economic crisis²⁵.

Recent legal and policy developments with regard to **children's rights** include the entry into force on 1 January 2024 of the amendments to the Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Act, No 39 of 2022, aligning with the international definition of a child and repealing provisions that permitted the use of corporal punishment²⁶. The approval of a 2024 draft amendment bill on the prohibition of corporal punishment in the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code remains pending. A Five-Year Child Protection Action Plan (2026-2030) has been prepared to implement the Child Protection Policy. The Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, which lacks a minimum marriage age, has not yet been reformed. While the overall school enrolment is high in Sri Lanka, girls living in marginalised areas in the northern and eastern provinces confront numerous barriers to education related to inadequate transportation, child marriage and economic difficulties. Only 53 % of girls in these marginalised areas complete primary education²⁷.

There are reports of continued systemic use of **torture and other forms of ill-treatment** in places of detention, with cases of deaths in custody²⁸. In May 2025, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka issued General Guidelines and Recommendations to the Sri Lanka Police, aimed at preventing custodial and encounter deaths²⁹. Although Sri Lanka has observed a de facto **moratorium on executions** since 1976, the courts continue handing down the death sentence, and the Ministry of Justice reported 817 persons on death row in September 2025³⁰.

Priorities for further engagement on human rights include repealing the PTA and reforming antiterrorism legislation in line with international standards; protecting civic and democratic space; ensuring freedom of expression by repealing the Online Safety Act; strengthening domestic accountability mechanisms and ensuring independent prosecutions; expediting investigations and prosecutions on emblematic cases; advancing on truth-seeking, tracing of missing persons and reparations for families of the disappeared; advancing an inclusive, victim-centred reconciliation process addressing social and economic equity, land restitution, and safe memorialisation; fostering gender equality and combating domestic, sexual, and gender based violence and child abuse, including by prohibiting child marriage; adopting comprehensive antidiscrimination laws protecting ethnic and religious minorities and LGBTIQ+ persons, and decriminalising consensual same-sex relations; addressing the targeted intimidation, harassment and surveillance of civil society by security forces; urgently addressing torture, police abuse, and deaths in custody through effective accountability; and introducing a formal moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards abolition.

3.2 Labour Rights

During the reporting period, Sri Lanka has taken positive steps to advance labour rights. Nevertheless, challenges remain regarding freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, forced labour and discrimination. Child labour was reduced, and the government is continuing its efforts with a strong focus on the informal economy and children living in rural areas. A comprehensive **labour law reform** to unify and modernise employment law is currently ongoing. The core objectives of the proposed Act include standardising employment contracts, termination procedures and remuneration, strengthening the industrial relations framework and incorporating provisions for flexible work arrangements, leave policies and occupational safety and health.

The National Labour Advisory Council is the main **tripartite consultative body** bringing together the government, trade unions and organisations of employers at the national level. The

International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) report recognised several positive aspects of the Advisory Council's work but asked for information on the outcome of consultations under the auspices of the National Labour Advisory Council (NLAC) about extending the protection of workers in Free Trade Zones³¹. During the reporting period, the labour inspectorate continued its efforts to enforce labour laws, improve workplace conditions, and align with ILO standards. There is a decentralised labour inspection system divided into 11 zones, 36 district offices and 17 sub-district offices. The number of labour inspectors was 628 in 2023 and the labour inspection rate was 0.6 per 10 000 employed according to ILO data.

With regard to **freedom of association, right to organise, and collective bargaining**, Sri Lankan law grants workers the right to form and join trade unions of their choice, and workers in nonessential service industries have a right to bargain collectively. Registration of trade unions is regulated by the Department of Labour, and over one hundred trade unions are officially recognised³². However, most large-scale private firms in the services sector, other than banks and tourist hotels, prohibit forming or joining a union within work premises. Collective bargaining is legally recognised as a voluntary process between employees or their unions and employers aimed at negotiating work conditions and wages³³. Reducing the excessive 40 % threshold for trade unions to engage in collective bargaining is still being discussed³⁴. The law does not explicitly recognise the right to strike, but it is an implied right under existing legislation (the Trade Unions Ordinance and Industrial Disputes Act). It does not apply to the public sector and public-sector unions had no formal dispute resolution mechanism until some recent mechanisms were set up. While legislation supports freedom of association, workers, particularly in FTZs still face administrative hurdles, intimidation and threats of dismissal. According to independent international organisations, union formation and collective bargaining in FTZs is very restricted and frequently obstructed by complex registration procedures and insufficient legal safeguards for striking or organising workers. The CEACR noted also with concern that the number of collective agreements in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) has not significantly increased over the last few years³⁵.

Recent measures on **forced labour and trafficking in persons** increased the protection of workers going abroad who might be at risk of becoming victims of forced labour. The minimum age for female migrant workers wanting to work abroad was raised to 21 years to ensure better protection. The Women Empowerment Act was adopted in 2024 to protect women from violence, trafficking and forced labour. To increase institutional capacity, 4 500 officers were trained on combating trafficking and to prevent illegal migration. Sri Lanka has adopted the National Strategic Action Plan 2021–2025 to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking and a task force coordinates overall efforts in this regard and works closely with the stakeholder institutions³⁶. Nevertheless, the CEACR requested the Government to strengthen the capacities of the labour inspection and law enforcement bodies with a view to ensuring that cases of forced labour and trafficking in persons for both sexual and labour exploitation are identified and investigated³⁷.

The Government was asked by CEACR to review the anti-terrorism legislation so that provisions cannot be used to impose penalties of imprisonment which involve **compulsory labour** on persons who peacefully express opposition to the established political, social or economic system. Sri Lanka was also requested to ensure that no sanctions involving compulsory labour may be imposed for peacefully participating in strikes³⁸.

Progress can be noted on **eliminating child labour**. The national programme was effectively implemented, child labour issues were mainstreamed in key development policies, and the

number of cases has significantly diminished. The minimum age for work is 16 and the minimum age for hazardous work is 18 years - in line with international standards. According to government data for 2024, 98 % of children under 14 attended school. Child labour remains a concern in agriculture, fisheries, tourism and the informal economy, with some children subjected to domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation. As from June 2025, Sri Lanka implemented stricter measures and labour inspections aimed at eliminating child labour. The Government was requested to appear before the ILO's Conference Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS) in June 2025 on the ILO Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (No 138)³⁹. The Government reported on various initiatives recently undertaken to combat child labour, which included a pilot programme conducted in the Colombo District to train officers in each police station in 2025. The National Child Protection Authority is actively implementing preventive measures to reduce the number of children who fall victim to commercial sexual exploitation, including through conducting awareness-raising programmes targeting plantation sector workers, school children and hotel owners⁴⁰.

On **occupational safety and health**, the Ministry of Labour provides guidelines, monitoring compliance and improving workplace safety, while the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health delivers targeted training programmes for professionals. The labour inspectorate controls the application of occupational safety and health provisions, particularly in manufacturing sectors⁴¹. Sri Lanka has not yet ratified the two fundamental ILO Conventions on Occupational Health and Safety (ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155) and Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 187)⁴², but the ILO supports the country to align its national OSH policies with them. In 2025, Sri Lanka reported positive prospects for the ratification of Convention No 155⁴³. In response to the Recommendations issued by the CAS in June 2025⁴⁴, the Government developed an Action Plan in consultation with stakeholders in the summer of 2025. Special field inspections will take place in plantations and fisheries, covering 1 100 workplaces; awareness programmes will cover 1 675 small and medium enterprises to obtain their pledges to eliminate child labour; inspections will also target home-based accommodation and hospitality service centres in the tourism sector; Child Labour Free Zone Programmes will be strengthened; and penalties for child labour-related offences will be increased by the factor of ten⁴⁵.

Insufficient **protection against discrimination** (ILO Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (No. 111)) in employment and occupation, notably in the private and in the informal sectors, persists. In addition, Sri Lanka's constitution covers citizens only and does not prohibit discrimination on the grounds of colour or national extraction^{46,47}. With respect to **equal remuneration for men and women and non-discrimination** (ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration of Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value (No. 100) and Convention No 111), the CEACR welcomed that domestic workers would be classified under the draft Employment Act as formal workers; however, it regretted that the principle of 'equal remuneration for work of equal value' was not included into the revised Shop and Office Employees Act, which was amended in 2024 to increase employment opportunities for women and promote gender equality⁴⁸. Non-discrimination clauses are foreseen in the new draft Employment Act⁴⁹, although the CEACR noted that the draft provisions are not fully in line with Convention No. 111. Sri Lanka has improved its evidence base for policy making with the publication of a gender pay gap study in 2024⁵⁰. The report reveals that women, despite higher educational attainment, are more likely to be found at the lower end of wage distribution and in the informal economy. Female labour force participation is low, at 31.3 %⁵¹. The Women Empowerment Act adopted in 2024 is an

important step aimed at advancing women's rights and it establishes institutional and legal framework to ensure gender equality and protection from discrimination⁵².

Minimum wage laws in Sri Lanka play a crucial role in safeguarding the welfare of employees. In January 2026, the minimum wage was increased to 30 000 Sri Lankan rupees (LKR) and the daily wage in the plantation sector was increased from 1 350 rupees to 1 750 rupees⁵³. The National Minimum Wage Board regularly reviews and recommends adjustments to these rates to align with economic developments. The CEACR asked the Government to ensure that the scope of the national minimum wage will now also cover domestic workers⁵⁴.

Priorities for further engagement with Sri Lanka on labour should focus efforts on addressing: the persistence of child labour, particularly in the agricultural and informal sectors⁵⁵; the lack of recent data on child labour – the government is invited to consider a new child labour survey with outcomes to be published in time for a possible GSP+ reapplication; restrictions on collective bargaining and the freedom of association; and concerns regarding provisions in existing laws that can impose sanctions involving compulsory labour, including on workers engaged in peaceful strikes.

3.3 Environment and Climate

Sri Lanka's **climate objectives** are broadly aligned with the outcomes of the Global Stocktake (GST) under the Paris Climate Agreement ('Paris Agreement'), including reaffirmation of the 1.5° C temperature goal, a national objective of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, increased emphasis on adaptation and resilience, and strengthened transparency through reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), while further work is needed to translate these orientations into concrete, time bound domestic implementation measures.

Under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, Sri Lanka submitted its first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) under the Paris Agreement's ETF in December 2024, together with associated Common Reporting Tables submitted in March 2025⁵⁶. The BTR represents Sri Lanka's most recent formal biennial transparency submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat and marks the transition from the Biennial Update Report system to the ETF reporting framework.

Also under the Paris Agreement, Sri Lanka submitted a revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2025⁵⁷ setting a total emissions reduction target of 20.09 % below 'business-as-usual' for 2026–2035, of which 8.11 % is unconditional and 11.98 % conditional, with a mid-period 2026–2030 target of 15.61 %. Sri Lanka proceeded with implementation of its NDC during 2023–2025 through sectoral strategies and policy instruments, supported by the Climate Change Act (2023). Key instruments include the NDC Implementation Plan, the Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy, renewable energy roadmaps, and climate-resilient agriculture and disaster risk management programmes coordinated by the Climate Change Secretariat under the Ministry of Environment. Sri Lanka approved the introduction of an import quota system for hydrofluorocarbons with effect from 1 January 2024^{58 59} as part of the country's obligations under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

On **biodiversity**, Sri Lanka initiated preparatory work during 2023 and 2024 to update its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)⁶⁰ in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). At implementation level, Sri Lanka continued to manage an extensive protected area network, as confirmed by international scientific sources⁶¹. However,

peer review studies published during 2023–2025 and international NGOs document persistent pressures from habitat loss, human wildlife conflict, illegal logging, and climate related impacts⁶².

Regarding **protection of endangered species**, Sri Lanka maintains active engagement with CITES implementation through its designated Management Authority, the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC). Legislative progress remains ongoing: Sri Lanka is classified in Category 3, with draft comprehensive regulations transmitted to the CITES Secretariat in November 2023 and work continuing toward potential Category 1 status⁶³. On operational grounds, Sri Lanka Customs' Biodiversity, Cultural and National Heritage Protection (BCNHP) Branch conducts regular enforcement actions at Bandaranaike International Airport and Colombo Port, with documented seizures of live animals, reptiles, and protected plant derivatives in 2024–2025⁶⁴. Capacity-building efforts include a National CITES Enforcement Training held in Colombo in May 2024 under the WCO INAMA project, strengthening frontline officer skills in species identification and risk profiling⁶⁵. Sri Lanka was also the first country globally to implement the UNCTAD-developed eCITES BaseSolution electronic permitting system, which has streamlined permit processing and improved inter-agency data sharing⁶⁶.

Sri Lanka remains formally compliant with its obligations as regards **biosafety** under the Cartagena Protocol framework. International technical assessments and capacity building initiatives, including the 2023 Strengthening Biosafety in Sri Lanka programme, focus on addressing persistent constraints related to risk assessment expertise; laboratory and testing infrastructure, and inter-agency coordination⁶⁷. Sri Lanka engaged on **hazardous wastes and other wastes** under the Basel Convention framework, including participation in Secretariat-supported national reporting activities recorded in 2023⁶⁸. With regard to **persistent organic pollutants (POPs)**, Sri Lanka has made concrete progress on legacy PCBs through a GEF-funded UNIDO project that helped remove and destroy almost 600 tonnes of PCB waste and PCB-contaminated equipment from the electricity and welding sectors.⁶⁹

Priorities for future engagement should focus on addressing persistent implementation challenges, including strengthening legislative and institutional frameworks for biosafety, waste and pollutants, including ensuring timely reporting and updated planning under the Stockholm Convention; enhancing enforcement coordination and forensic capacity for wildlife crime under CITES; advancing an updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework, and overcoming constraints related to climate finance mobilisation, data quality, and institutional implementation capacity.

3.4 Good Governance (Anti-Corruption and Drug Control)

In terms of **drug control**, drug markets are undergoing changes, with a sharp rise in methamphetamine seizures indicating rapidly expanding trafficking. In November 2023, Sri Lanka issued the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Disposal of Court Productions) Regulations, establishing the mechanism for the disposal of seized drugs and related court productions after case conclusion⁷⁰. In February 2025, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the preparation of a draft bill to strengthen the legal framework against drug trafficking on the high seas, with a view to enhancing provisions related to maritime drug trafficking⁷¹. There were no significant changes to the institutional framework for drug control during the reporting period.

As the Sri Lankan government continues with a robust anti-drug campaign, the compulsory rehabilitation framework and the custodial environment in rehabilitation centres for people who use drugs create risks of ill-treatment and of potential violations of the Conventions against

Torture and ICCPR. The Bureau of Rehabilitation, operating under the Ministry of Public Security, oversees key facilities (rehabilitation centres), blurring the line between health based and security-based approaches. A voluntary, health-based and human rights centred approach to people who use drugs is needed to comply with the international conventions. The government highlights that the Ministry of Health revised treatment protocols as per United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. In December 2024, Sri Lanka held its first national symposium on community interventions in drug prevention and treatment, providing a national platform for the exchange of evidence-based practices, innovative approaches and research findings⁷².

Sri Lanka has made progress as regards **anti-corruption**. The new National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) 2025–2029 was approved in March 2025⁷³, and the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) mandate was significantly broadened in 2023⁷⁴ and its independence and autonomy strengthened in 2024⁷⁵. Sri Lanka also was the first country in Asia to participate in an IMF Governance Diagnostic Assessment, as a key structural benchmark of the Extended Fund Facility, to address vulnerabilities, promote growth, reinforce rule of law and transparency and support public finance management reform. IMF monitors annually the implementation of the recommendations⁷⁶. Structural and operational gaps remain, as highlighted in a 2025 report by the Global Civil Society Coalition for the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The report finds reforms largely under-implemented⁷⁷, although it did not take into account some of the most recent developments in 2025, such as some judicial dismissals, investigations of prominent figures, and the launch of NACAP 2025-2029 with the endorsement of civil society.

Priorities for future engagement should focus on the development and implementation of policies to tackle **drug trafficking**, ensure that treatment and rehabilitation interventions are applied in a voluntary, health- based and human rights centred approach, and enhancement of the capacity of law enforcement agencies to disrupt drug trafficking networks, while respecting human rights in line with international human rights conventions. Future engagement should also prioritise continued strengthening of the **anti-corruption** framework and addressing structural and operational gaps, including promoting transparency and accountability in public institutions, and ensuring independent investigations and timely prosecutions of corruption cases, notably at high-level.

4. Development cooperation in support of GSP+ objectives

Within a strategic framework prioritising ‘Green Recovery’ and ‘Inclusive and Peaceful Society’, the EU allocated EUR 60 million in grant funding to its partnership with Sri Lanka for the period 2021-2024 and a further EUR 32 million for the 2025-2027 period.

The EU and Sri Lanka’s green recovery projects cover a wide range of initiatives on circular economy, biodiversity protection, renewable energy, sustainable trade, food security, and other related areas. A Green Recovery Team Europe Initiative with Germany, France and the European Investment Bank (EIB), is being implemented since 2021. The EU is also supporting Global Gateway investments in solar energy and wastewater management with two investment grants. In 2022, the EU flagship programme on Justice Sector Reform (JURE) started with an initial duration of 4.5 years, for which an extension is under discussion, and with an EU contribution of EUR 18 million. The programme aims to improve access to justice, accountability/transparency in the sector and the efficiency of justice services delivery based on the Government’s reform agenda, with a strong focus on access to justice for women and children. In addition, the Strengthening Social Cohesion and Peace (SCOPE) programme, to

which the EU contributed EUR 10 million and which concluded in early 2026, advanced reconciliation by promoting social cohesion across all 25 districts and empowering women and youth as agents of change. It strengthened institutions and communities to prevent violence and exclusion, fostered inter-ethnic collaboration and fact-based public discourse, and through initiatives such as the Sri Lanka Barometer on Reconciliation and shared rural infrastructure and green-economy projects, helped build a more inclusive and peaceful society.

EU cooperation on human rights in Sri Lanka: An important part of the EU cooperation with Sri Lanka is implemented through diversified portfolio of local and international civil society organisations (CSO), through mainstreaming in bilateral country programmes or through grants funded through calls for proposals under the thematic instruments such as the Democracy and Human Rights (DHR) and CSO/LA thematic programmes. The EU also holds a regular dialogue with CSOs.

Annex: Sri Lanka - Compliance with GSP ratification and reporting obligations

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
Human Rights		
1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948)	Ratified: 12.10.1950 No reservations	No reporting obligations
2. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)	Ratified: 18.02.1982 No reservations	Non compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 06.10.2016 • Last report submitted: 15.10.2015 • Next report due: 20.03.2019 (not submitted)
3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)	Ratified: 11.06.1980 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 26.04.2023 • Last report submitted: 22.02.2019 • Next report due: 26.03.2029
4. International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (1966)	Ratified: 11.06.1980 No reservations	Non compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 23.06.2017 • Last report submitted: 07.10.2015 • Next report due: 30.06.2022 (not submitted)
5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)	Ratified: 05.10.1981 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 21.02.2025 • Last report submitted: 22.04.2022 • Next report due: not yet set
6. Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)	Ratified: 03.01.1994 No reservations	Non compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 30.11.2016 • Last report submitted: 16.10.2015 • Next report due: 07.12.2020 (not submitted)
7. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)	Ratified: 12.07.1991 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 09.02.2018 • Last report submitted: 04.08.2025 • Next report due: not yet set
Labour Rights^{1 2}		
8. Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, No 29 (1930)	Ratified: 05.04.1950	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2024 • Last Government report submitted: 2023 • Next report due: not yet set
9. Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, No 87 (1948)	Ratified: 15.09.1995	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2025 • Last Government report submitted: 2025 • Next report due: not yet set
10. Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively, No 98 (1949)	Ratified: 13.12.1972	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2025 • Last Government report submitted: 2025 • Next report due: not yet set
11. Convention concerning Equal Remuneration of Men	Ratified: 01.04.1993	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments in 2025

¹ Following a decision taken by the ILO Governing Body to modernise the ILO reporting system, as from 2027 Governments will no longer submit separate reports for each ratified Convention, but instead, they will submit thematic reports, grouping conventions in 15 thematic areas. As a transition year, only a limited number of reports will be requested in 2026. See: The future of reporting on ratified conventions, <https://www.ilo.org/international-labour-standards/applying-and-promoting-international-labour-standards-overview-ilo/future-reporting-ratified-conventions>.

² Reservations do not apply in the ILO system.

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, No 100 (1951)		• Last Government report submitted in 2024 • Next report due: not yet set
12. Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, No 105 (1957)	Ratified: 07.01.2003	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments in 2024 • Last Government report submitted in 2023 • Next report due: not yet set
13. Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, No 111 (1958)	Ratified: 27.11.1998	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments in 2025 • Last Government report submitted in 2024 • Next report due: not yet set
14. Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, No 138 (1973)	Ratified: 11.02.2000	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2025 • Last Government report submitted: 2025 • Next report due: not yet set
15. Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, No 182 (1999)	Ratified: 01.03.2001	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments in 2024 • Last Government report submitted in 2023 • Next report due: not yet set
Environment and Climate		
16. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973)	Ratified: 04.05.1979. No reservations.	Compliant with reporting obligations • Annual Trade Report for 2023 submitted on 29.11.2024 • Annual Trade Report for 2024 submitted on 25.08.2025 • Next Annual Trade Report due by: 31.10.2026 • Annual Illegal Trade Reports for 2023 and 2024: both outstanding³. • Last Implementation Report: Submitted for 2021-2024⁴
17. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987)	Ratified: 15.12.1989. No reservations.	Compliant with reporting obligations Last report submitted: • Article 7 data report covering 2024 submitted Next report due: • Article 7 data report covering 2025 due by 30.09.2026
18. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989)	Ratified: 28.08.1992. No reservations.	Compliant with reporting obligations • National Report (NR) for 2023 submitted on 27.12.2024 • NR for 2024 submitted on 02.02.2026 • Next NR (2025) due by 31.12.2026
19. Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Ratified: 23.03.1994.	Compliant with reporting obligations • Seventh National Report (7NR): submitted on 27.02.2026. • Latest National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) update: 2016 (until 2022) • Next report: 8NR due by 30.06.2029
20. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	Ratified: 23.11.1993 No reservations.	Compliant with reporting obligations • Latest updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC): NDC 3.0 on 25.09.2025

³ Reporting mandatory but not subject to compliance procedure.

⁴ Ibid.

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
		• Latest National Communication (NC): NC3 01.12.2022 • First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1): submitted on 31.12.2024 • Next report (BTR2) due by 31.12.2026
21. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2000)	Ratified: 28.04.2004. No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Latest National Report: 5NR submitted on 28.02.2026 • Next report: Not yet set
22. Stockholm Convention on persistent Organic Pollutants (2001)	Ratified: 22.12.2005. No reservations.	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Latest National Report: 5NR submitted on 31.08.2022 • Next Report due: 6NR due by 31.08.2026 • Initial National Implementation Plan (NIP): 28.09.2007 • NIP updates: COP4 and COP5 amendments included
23. Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1998)	Ratified 03.09.2002. No reservations	No reporting obligations separate from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
Good Governance		
24. United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)	Ratified: 11.07.1963 No reservations.	Compliant with reporting obligations 2024 reporting fulfilled Latest INCB mission in March 2018.
25. United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)	Ratified: 15.03.1993 No reservations	
26. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)	Ratified: 06.06.1991 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations 2025 reporting fulfilled Latest INCB mission in March 2018.
27. United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003)	Ratified: 31.03.2004 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations First review cycle completed in 2015. Second review cycle completed in 2018. Both the Executive Summaries and full Country Review Reports are publicly available.

¹ OJ L 85, 19.4.1995, pp. 33–42, ‘Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on partnership and development’,

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/1995/129/oj.

² Key events in 2026 at the moment of writing have been included in this Staff Working Document. All links provided were up to date as of 28 April 2026.

³ Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, ‘Sri Lanka’s Elusive Democratic Renewal’, Nov. 2025.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2025/11/sri-lanka-democracy-protest-one-year-later?lang=en>.

⁴ IFPRI, ‘Multidimensional Poverty and Vulnerability in Sri Lanka’, 2024-2025, Nov, 2025, p. 6.

<https://cgspage.cgiar.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/bb5a2585-854b-4164-b860-a2d7d8a70f78/content#:~:text=As%20illustrated%20in%20Table%201,of%20the%20weighted%20poverty%20indicators>.

⁵ Source for all statistics in point 2.2: Eurostat COMTEXT data covering 2022-2024 based on latest available validated full year data as of September 2025. GSP statistics only cover goods imported into the EU market, i.e., goods released for free circulation in the EU. The GSP statistics do not cover other EU-imports, like goods imported for the customs inward processing procedure or re-imports after the customs outward processing procedure. Trade flows registered as ‘confidential’ do not appear in the GSP+ usage figures and regime 1 normal trade; but do appear in total trade figures (regime 4).

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ext_go_agg_esms.htm#conf1537195068659.

⁶ Products that benefit from GSP are separated in sections according to the GSP Regulation. Information on which CN codes are included in the GSP sections can be found in Annex V of the Regulation No 978/2012.

ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2012/978/2025-01-01>.

⁷ Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, ‘List of Members’, as at 24 Dec. 2025.

<https://ganhri.org/membership/>. The re-accreditation with A-Status was recommended in May 2024.

⁸ OHCHR, ‘Situation of human rights in Sri Lanka, Comprehensive report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights’, 22 Aug. 2024, p.3, A9. [A/HRC/57/19: Situation of human rights in Sri Lanka - Comprehensive report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - Advance unedited version | OHCHR](#).

⁹ Inland Revenue Department, ‘Amendments to the Inland Revenue Act, No. 24 of 2017, Notice to the taxpayers’, 26 Mar. 2025. <https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/acts/gbills/english/6379.pdf>.

¹⁰ UNICEF, ‘Situation report on Cyclone Ditwah’, UNICEF Sri Lanka, 2 Dec. 2025, p. 3.

<https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/5156/file>.

¹¹ National Secretariat for Non-governmental Organizations, ‘Regarding the registration of organizations under the Voluntary Social Service Organizations (Registration and Supervision) Act No. 31 of 1980’, 12 Dec. 2024.

www.ngosec.gov.lk/news-events/notice.

¹² Office of the Cabinet of Ministers Sri Lanka, ‘Press briefing of Cabinet Decision taken on 2025-05-26 (Subject to Confirmation at the next Meeting): Amendment to the Online Safety Act No.9 of 2024’, Press briefing, 26 May 2025.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.lk/cab/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=49&lang=en&dID=13192.

¹³ National Peace Council of Sri Lanka, ‘PSTA is a test of system change’, Dec. 2025. www.peace-srilanka.org/news-media/media-releases/1934-26-12-2025-psta-consultation-is-a-test-of-system-change.

¹⁴ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), ‘OHCHR comments on the Protection of the State from Terrorism Act’, 24 Feb. 2026. www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/sri-lanka/ohchr-comments-sri-lanka-psta.pdf.

¹⁵ OHCHR, ‘Accountability for conflict-related sexual violence in Sri Lanka’, OHCHR, 13 Jan. 2026, p. 6.

www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sri-lanka/2026-crsv-brief-english.pdf.

¹⁶ OHCHR, ‘High Commissioner Türk: Sri Lanka needs a clear roadmap for accountability and reform’, Remarks to Interactive Dialogue on OHCHR Report on Sri Lanka, OHCHR, 8 Sep. 2025. <https://media.un.org/unifeed/en/asset/d344/d3445003#:~:text=8%20September%202025,08%20SEPTEMBER%202025%2C%20GENEVA%2C%20SWITZERLAND>.

¹⁷ OHCHR, ‘Situation of human rights in Sri Lanka, Comprehensive report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights’, 12 Aug. 2025, p.3.

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session60/advance-version/a-hrc-60-21-auv.pdf>.

¹⁸ Ibid, p. 7.

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- ¹⁹ Human Rights Commission for Sri Lanka, ‘Parallel Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women’, 6 Jan. 2025, p. 5, para. 22. https://www.hrcsl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/HRCSL-Parallel-Report-to-the-CEDAW-Committee_2025.pdf.
- ²⁰ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, ‘Concluding observations on the ninth periodic report of Sri Lanka’, 28 Feb. 2025, p. 6, para. E19. <https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/9>.
- ²¹ Ibid, p. 2, para. 5c.
- ²² Ibid, pp.8-9, paras. 27-29
- ²³ Ibid, p.8, para. 27f.
- ²⁴ Ibid, p. 23, para 68.
- ²⁵ Ibid, p.10, para. 31.
- ²⁶ Committee on the Rights of the Child, ‘7th Periodic report of Sri Lanka’, 04 Aug. 2025, p.8-9, paras.8-17. tbiinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2FC%2FLKA%2F7&Lang=en.
- ²⁷ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, ‘Concluding observations on the ninth periodic report of Sri Lanka’, 28 Feb. 2025, p.14, para. 39 a-b. <https://docs.un.org/en/CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/9>.
- ²⁸ Human Rights Committee, ‘Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Sri Lanka’, 26 Apr. 2023, para. 26. <https://docs.un.org/en/CCPR/C/LKA/CO/6>.
- ²⁹ Human Rights Commission for Sri Lanka, ‘General Guidelines and Recommendations No. 1 to Sri Lanka Police on preventing custodial and encounter death’, 15 May 2025. <https://www.hrcsl.lk/documentation/guidelines-and-directives/>.
- ³⁰ Ministry of Justice and National Integration, ‘Progress Report 2025’, 2025, p.93. https://www.nrds.gov.lk/documents/progress_report/2025_progress_report_english.pdf.
- ³¹ International Labour Organisation (ILO), ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 144’, adopted 2023, published 112nd ILC session, 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4379242,103172.
- ³² According to ILO data, the trade union density rate in 2019 was 10.1 %. <https://test-ilstat.pantheonsite.io/data/country-profiles/lka/>.
- ³³ According to ILO data, the collective bargaining coverage rate in 2019 was 3.2 %.
- ³⁴ ILO, Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 138, adopted in 2025, published in ‘Application on International Labour Standards 2026, Report of the Committee of Experts on the application of Conventions and Recommendations’, Feb. 2026. <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/Report%20III%28A%29-2026-%5BNORMES-251223-001%5D-Web-EN.pdf>.
- ³⁵ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on C98’, adopted in 2025, published in Feb. 2026.
- ³⁶ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 29’, adopted 2024, published 113rd ILC session, 2025., https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4418165,103172.
- ³⁷ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 29’, adopted 2024, published 113rd ILC session, 2025. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4418165,103172.
- ³⁸ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 105’, adopted 2024, published 113rd ILC session, 2025. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4418062,103172.
- ³⁹ A country’s government is called to appear before the ILO’s Conference Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS) during the annual International Labour Conference (usually June) to explain how it is applying ratified conventions, prompted by observations from the CEACR that flag areas needing improvement or further information.
- ⁴⁰ ILO, ‘Committee on the Application of Standards, Sri Lanka, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)’, 113th session, Geneva, 2025. <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/ILC113-CAN-PV6-Sri%20Lanka-Patchwork-%5BNORMES-250527-017%5D-EFS.pdf>.
- ⁴¹ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 81’, adopted 2024, published 113rd ILC session, 2025). https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4396443,103172.
- ⁴² Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No 155) and Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No 187).
- ⁴³ Review of annual reports under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998), as amended in 2022, Governing Body, 353rd Session, Geneva 10-20 March 2025. https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/GB353-INS-3%28Rev.1%29-%5BNORMES-250313-001%5D-Web-EN_1.pdf.

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- ⁴⁴ The full set of recommendations can be found at: ILO, Committee on the Application of Standards, Sri Lanka, Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), 113th session, Geneva, 2025. <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/ILC113-CAN-PV6-Sri%20Lanka-Patchwork-%5BNORMES-250527-017%5D-EFS.pdf>.
- ⁴⁵ ILO, ‘Application on International Labour Standards 2026’, Report of the Committee of Experts on the application of Conventions and Recommendations, Feb. 2026. <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/Report%20III%28A%29-2026-%5BNORMES-251223-001%5D-Web-EN.pdf>.
- ⁴⁶ UNHCHR, ‘Situation of Human Rights in Sri Lanka’, A/HRC/51/5, 4 Oct. 2022. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/ahrc515-situation-human-rights-sri-lanka-comprehensive-report-united-nations-high>.
- ⁴⁷ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 111’ in ‘Application on International Labour Standards 2026, Report of the Committee of Experts on the application of Conventions and Recommendations’, Feb 2026. <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/Report%20III%28A%29-2026-%5BNORMES-251223-001%5D-Web-EN.pdf>.
- ⁴⁸ According to ILO, the female participation labour market rate was 35.9 %, the share of women in management positions was 21.1 % and the gender pay gap was 7 % in 2023.
- ⁴⁹ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 100’, adopted 2025, published in ‘Application on International Labour Standards 2026, Report of the Committee of Experts on the application of Conventions and Recommendations’, Feb. 2026. <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/Report%20III%28A%29-2026-%5BNORMES-251223-001%5D-Web-EN.pdf>.
- ⁵⁰ ILO, ‘The Gender Pay Gap in Sri Lanka, A statistical review with policy implications’. https://labourmin.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Gender_Pay_gap_NILES-1.pdf.
- ⁵¹ <https://www.ilo.org/publications/how-improve-female-labour-force-participation-sri-lanka>.
- ⁵² Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, ‘Parallel report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women’, 6 Jan 2025. https://www.hrcsl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/HRCSL-Parallel-Report-to-the-CEDAW-Committee_2025.pdf.
- ⁵³ Ministry of Labour. Government of Sri Lanka. <https://labourmin.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/English.pdf>.
- ⁵⁴ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 100’, adopted 2025, published in ‘Application on International Labour Standards 2026, Report of the Committee of Experts on the application of Conventions and Recommendations’, Feb. 2026. <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/Report%20III%28A%29-2026-%5BNORMES-251223-001%5D-Web-EN.pdf>.
- ⁵⁵ According to ILO data, the informal employment rate reached 67.6 % in 2023.
- ⁵⁶ UNFCCC Secretariat, ‘First Biennial Transparency Report of Sri Lanka (BTR1)’, submitted 31 December 2024, and associated Common Reporting Tables. <https://unfccc.int/documents/645279>.
- ⁵⁷ Ministry of Environment, Government of Sri Lanka, ‘Submission of the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) of Sri Lanka’, Sept. 2025. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2025-09/Sri%20Lanka%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contributions%203.0%20%282026-2035%29%20submitted%2022.09.2025%20%281%29.pdf>.
- ⁵⁸ <https://media.gov.lk/media-gallery/latest-news/3235-cabinet-decisions-cabinet-decisions-of-march-18-2024>
- ⁵⁹ <https://www.env.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/announcements/special-other-notices/323-compulsory-registration-of-business-entities-individuals-to-obtain-hydrofluorocarbon-hfcs-import-quota-f>.
- ⁶⁰ UNDP Procurement Notice, ‘National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2030’. https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_negotiation.cfm?nego_id=32902.
- ⁶¹ ScienceDirect, ‘Assessment of protected area coverage in Sri Lanka’. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667010022001810>.
- ⁶² Journal of Forest Science, ‘Biodiversity pressures in Sri Lanka, 2024’. <https://jfs.agriculturejournals.cz/pdfs/jfs/2024/06/02.pdf>.
- ⁶³ CITES Sri Lanka Country Profile (reports and compliance): <https://cites.org/eng/parties/country-profiles/lk>
- ⁶⁴ Ceylon Today ‘Sri Lanka Customs BCNHP enforcement updates’: <https://ceylontoday.lk/2026/03/08/sls-fight-against-illegal-wildlife-trafficking/>.
- ⁶⁵ WCO ‘INAMA Project Newsletter’ p.3. <https://www.wcoomd.org/-/media/wco/public/global/pdf/topics/enforcement-and-compliance/activities-and-programmes/environment-programme/inama-project-newsletter/inama-newsletter-apr-jun-2024-en.pdf?la=en>.
- ⁶⁶ CITES ‘New wildlife trade management system goes live in Sri Lanka’. https://cites.org/eng/news/new_wildlife_trade_system_goes_live_SriLanka_12032020.
- ⁶⁷ Government of Sri Lanka, ‘Strengthening Biosafety in Sri Lanka’, 2023 project documentation and training materials. <https://www.fao.org/partnerships/resource-partners/stories/story-detail/strengthening-biosafety-in-sri-lanka/en>.

⁶⁸ Basel Convention Secretariat, national reporting and reporting support activities.

<https://www.basel.int/Countries/NationalReporting>.

⁶⁹ United Nations Industrial Development Organization. ‘UNIDO Helps Sri Lanka Destroy Toxic PCB Oil, Contaminated Equipment in Utility and Welding Sectors’, UNIDO, 22 Feb. 2024.

<https://www.unido.org/stories/unido-helps-sri-lanka-destroy-toxic-pcb-oil-contaminated-equipment-utility-and-welding-sectors>.

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