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# NATIONALLY APPROPRIATE MITIGATION ACTION: SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT IN **SRI LANKA THROUGH AN ELECTRIC BUS RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM**



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# FOREWORD

The Sri Lankan transport sector plays an important role for the country's development and growth. At the same time, the transport sector is the country's biggest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for almost 50 per cent of Sri Lanka's total emissions.

This document presents a NAMA on Sustainable Transport in Sri Lanka through Electric Bus Rapid Transit Systems to promote greenhouse gas emission reductions and at the same time sustainable development. The NAMA is designed to support Sri Lanka in achieving the country's policies on the promotion of alternative and cleaner modes of transportation. The NAMA is fully aligned with Sri Lanka's National Action Plan for the Haritha Lanka Programme with the main objectives to implement mass transit systems, promote alternate transport technologies, reduce GHG emissions and introduce efficient public transportation systems.

During recent years, NAMAs have become a focus of climate change mitigation negotiations in the UNFCCC process. The NAMA modality can provide the essential holistic framework to overhaul a complete sector when framed within the context of sustainable development and beyond pure mitigation aspects. The focus on the sustainability of the entire sector is essential for achieving lasting results.

Moreover, the understanding of the NAMA concept is still evolving, and there is relatively little on-the-ground experience with respect to turning the concept into concrete actions. COP 19 in 2013 saw the introduction of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and while the exact relationship between INDCs and NAMAs is yet to be clearly defined, NAMAs can act as possible implementation tools for INDCs.

In this regard, UNDP MDG Carbon Programme has supported the development of the NAMA on Sustainable Transport in Sri Lanka through Electric Bus Rapid Transit Systems in order to help the country to bring about a paradigm shift in the transport sector.

The outcomes of this NAMA with regards to sustainable development and GHG emission reductions and are strongly interrelated building blocks as a pathway of a change framework that shall ensure that the NAMA is fully embedded in national development goals.

The NAMA design will provide the country with an accurate and credible information framework by applying robust MRV systems for sustainable development impacts and GHG emission reductions. The calculation of GHG emission reductions is based on an approved CDM methodology while the UNDP NAMA Sustainable Development Evaluation Tool will allow to quantify and monitor the sustainable development impacts.

NAMA on Sustainable Transport in Sri Lanka through Electric Bus Rapid Transit Systems is designed as a framework that will help Sri Lanka to move towards a low-carbon pathway while advancing long-term sustainable development benefits and strengthening the private sector.



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