Biographies of Participants
I. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Sri Lanka

Hon. Mr. S. B. Dissanayake, MP
Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare
Chair, SLPPD

Hon. Mr. S. B. Dissanayake is a member of the United People’s Freedom Alliance (UPFA) and Minister of Social Empowerment and Welfare. Hon. Mr. Dissanayake is a member of the Committee of Public Accounts. His political career includes: member of the Communist Party in Sri Lanka from 1970 to 1979; President of the Inter-University Students’ Federation from 1972 to 1974; President of the Student Council of the Vidyodaya University from 1972 to 1974; and President of the Lanka National Student Council from 1974 to 1976.

Hon. Mr. Eswarapatham Saravanapavan, MP
Deputy Chair, SLPPD

Hon. Mr. Eswarapatham Saravanapavan serves as Member of Parliament representing the Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi (ITAK) Party. He is involved with the Committee on Privileges, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment and the Select Committee of Parliament on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among others. Hon. Mr. Saravanapavan is also the Managing Director of the Uthayan daily Tamil newspaper, printed and published in Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka, and Sudar Oli daily Tamil newspaper, printed and published from Colombo.

Hon. Mr. J. C Alawathuwala, MP
Treasurer, SLPPD

Hon. Mr. J. C Alawathuwala serves as Member of Parliament representing the United National Party (UNP). He is involved in the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands, among others. Hon. Mr. Alawathuwala is also the Assistant Chief Government Whip of Parliament.
Hon. Mr. Lakshman Senewiratne, MP  
*State Minister of Science, Technology and Research  
Secretary, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. Lakshman Senewiratne serves as Member of Parliament representing the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) for the Badulla district, and as State Minister of Science, Technology and Research. He is involved with the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage, among others. Hon. Mr. Senewiratne has previously served as the Cabinet Minister of Sugar Industries.

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Hon. Mr. Hector Appuhamy, MP  
*Assistant Secretary, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. Hector Appuhamy serves as Member of Parliament representing the United National Party (UNP). He is involved in the Committee on Public Enterprises, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources, and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

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Hon. Mr. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana, MP  
*Assistant Secretary, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana serves as Member of Parliament representing the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) Party. He is involved in the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Business and Commerce, among others. Hon. Mr. Moulana is hailed for playing a pivotal role in bringing about an end to the 30-year Sri Lankan Civil War and for his tireless contributions towards the people of Sri Lanka in the varying offices he has held. He was one of the founding members of the Refugee Relief Organization in 1987, one of the pioneer relief efforts directed towards refugees during the brunt of the civil war. He has also worked as the Chairman of the Eravur Urban Council (1994, 2011-2015) and Minister of Economic Development at the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington DC (2006-2009). Hon. Mr. Moulana concurrently serves as the President of the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities and Executive Director of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.
Hon. Mr. Ashok Abeysinghe, MP
Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation
Member, SLPPD

Hon. Mr. Ashok Abeysinghe serves as Member of Parliament, representing the United National Party (UNP) for the Kurunegala District, and as Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation. He is involved in the Committee on Public Enterprises, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands, and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

Hon. Mr. Ananda Aluthgamage, MP
Member, SLPPD

Hon. Mr. Ananda Aluthgamage serves as Member of Parliament representing the United National Party (UNP). He is involved in the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Business and Commerce, and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication. Previously, Hon. Mr. Aluthgamage has served as the Chairman of the Gangalhala Pradeshiya Sabha in 1997 and Provincial Council Member from 2004 to 2012.

Hon. Mr. Vijitha Berugoda, MP
Member, SLPPD

Hon. Mr. Vijitha Berugoda serves as Member of Parliament representing the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA). He is involved in the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment. Previously, he has served as the Chairman of the Bibila Pradeshiya Sabha (1998 – 1999), Chief Government Whip (1999 – 2004) and Member of the Uva Provincial Council (2004 – 2010).

Hon. Mr. T. B. Ekanayake, MP
State Minister of Lands
Member, SLPPD

Hon. Mr. T.B. Ekanayake serves as Member of Parliament representing the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) and as State Minister of Lands. Hon. Mr. Ekanayake entered politics in 1975. He became a Member of the North-Western Provincial Council in 1993 and a Member of Parliament in 1994. He has also served as the Deputy Minister of Cultural Affairs, Deputy Minister of Highways, Minister of Highways and Road Development, and Deputy Minister of Education.
Hon. Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle, MP
State Minister of City Planning and Water Supply
Member, SLPPD

Hon. Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle serves as Member of Parliament representing the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA). She is also a member of the SLFP Central Committee and Head of the Women's Front of the SLFP. Hon. Dr. Fernandopulle is a Specialist in Public Health who has served the Government of Sri Lanka for 24 years. Previously, Hon. Dr. Fernandopulle has served at the Family Health Bureau (Ministry of Health) which was responsible for the maternal, child health and family planning programme in Sri Lanka. She has also worked as the State Minister for City Planning and Water Supply and was appointed as Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Research in 2015. In 2016, Hon. Dr. Fernandopulle has participated in AFPPD's 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference.

Hon. Mrs. Sriyani Wijewickrama Radampala Gamage, MP
Member, SLPPD

Hon. Mrs. Sriyani Wijewickrama Radampala Gamage serves as Member of Parliament representing the United People's Freedom Alliance. She is also a member of the House Committee and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender. Her political interests are in women rights, human rights and judicial affairs. She has participated in various international and regional parliamentary meetings, including the IPU General Assembly in Geneva in 2010, and AFPPD's 11th Women Ministers and Parliamentarians Conference in Bangkok in 2016. Hon. Mrs. Gamage is an attorney-at-law by profession.

Hon. Mr. Sydney Jayaratne, MP
Member, SLPPD

Hon. Mr. Sydney Jayaratne serves as Member of Parliament representing the United National Party (UNP). He was elected in 2015 from the Polonnaruwa District. Hon. Mr. Jayaratne is involved with the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development and Environment and Natural Resources, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication, among others. Previously, he was the Chairman of the Madirigiriya Pradesheya Sabha (1991); Member of the North Central Provincial Council (1993 – 2001, 2008 – 2012); and Opposition Leader of the North Central Provincial Council (2015).
Hon. Mr. Malith Jayathilake, MP  
*Member, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. Malith Jayathilake serves as Member of Parliament representing the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA). He is involved with the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security, and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management.

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Hon. Mr. J. M. Ananda Kumarasiri, MP  
*Member, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. J.M. Ananda Kumarasiri serves as Member of Parliament representing the United National Party (UNP) for the districted of Monaragala. He is involved with the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands, among others. Previously, Hon. Mr. Kumarasiri was a Member of the Uva Provincial Council (1993 – 1998) and the Minister of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Probation and Women's Affairs.

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Hon. Mr. K. Kader Masthan, MP  
*Member, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. K. Kader Masthan serves as Member of Parliament representing the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) for the district of Vanni. He is involved with the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Internal Administration and Public Management, and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation and North and East Reconstruction. Hon. Mr. Masthan is also the Co-Chairman of the District Coordinating Committee.

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Hon. Mr. Mohamed Navavi, MP  
*Member, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. Mohamed Navavi serves as Member of Parliament representing the United National Party (UNP). He is involved with the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Lands, and the Committee on Public Finance.
Hon. Mr. Ishak Rahuman, MP  
*Member, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. Ishak Rahuman serves as Member of Parliament representing the United National Party (UNP). He is involved with the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health and Human Welfare, Social Empowerment, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication, and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Business and Commerce. A businessman by profession, Hon. Mr. Rahuman has been engaged in social work in the district, working with a foundation founded by his father, to assist kidney patients and other needy persons in the district.

Hon. Mr. Harshana Supun Rajakaruna, MP  
*Member, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. Harshana Supun Rajakaruna serves as Member of Parliament representing the United National Party for the Gampaha District. Previously, he was a member of the Western Provincial Council, having been elected in 2009, and a Senior Investment Advisor at John Keells Stock Brokers. It is during this time that Hon. Mr. Harshana provided a silent service to his father's electorate through his membership in the Executive Committee, National Youth League Working Committee, Sports Committee, Economic Committee and Buddhist Committee of the United National Party. He has also been an Advisor to the Gampaha District Liberal Youth Guild.

Hon. Mr. Md. Hafeel Salman, MP  
*Member, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. Md. Hafeel Salman serves as Member of Parliament representing the United National Party (UNP). He is involved with the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication, and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (anti-corruption) and Media. Hon. Mr. Salman is an Attorney-At-Law by profession.

Hon. Mr. Muthu Sivlingam, MP  
*Member, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. Muthu Sivlingam serves as Member of Parliament representing the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA). Previously, he was the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, the Minister of Estate Housing Infrastructure and Community Development, and the Deputy Minister of Economic Development.
Hon. Mr. L. A. Wijemanne, MP
*Member, SLPPD*

Hon. Mr. L.A. Wijemanne serves as Member of Parliament representing the United National Party (UNP) for the Kalutara district. He is involved with the Committee on Public Petition, the Committee on Public Finance, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations, and the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Transport and Communication.

II. RESOURCE PERSONS
*(In Alphabetical Order)*

**Mr. Jayan Abeywickrama**
National Programme Analyst (EmONC), UNFPA

**Ms. Kristine Blokhus**
Officer-in-Charge, UNFPA

Ms. Kristine Blokhus is the current Officer-in-Charge of UNFPA Sri Lanka. Previously, she was the Deputy Representative of UNFPA Nepal, the Deputy Resident Representative to UNDP in Montenegro, and the Assistant Resident Representative to UNDP in Belize. In her earlier career, she has also worked for the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the Institute of Development Studies.

**Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake**
Vice Chancellor, University Of Colombo

Professor Lakshman Dissanayake entered the University of Colombo in June 1973 as an undergraduate student. He currently serves the University of Colombo as a Senior Professor in the Department of Demography. During his tenure in the University of Colombo, he was appointed to various Academic as well as Administrative positions. He has served as the academic sub-warden, academic warden, student counselor, Coordinator of the Demographic Training and Research Unit, Rector of Sri Palee Campus, and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Professor Dissanayake has also officiated as the Acting Vice Chancellor of university. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) in the United Kingdom.
Ms. Madu Dissanayake
Director, Family Planning Association for Sri Lanka

Ms. Madu Dissanayake is the Public Affairs, Policy and Advocacy of the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka. Previously, she has worked for the Leonard Cheshire Disability as the Advocacy and Campaigns Manager from 2005 to 2006.

Mr. Bandula Harischandra
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare

Dr. Mr. K. A. S. Keeragala
Additional Secretary, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs

Mrs. Thushara Ranasinghe
Executive Director, Family Planning Association for Sri Lanka

Mrs. Thushara Ranasinghe is the Executive Director of the Family Planning Association for Sri Lanka.
Ms. Kumudini Samuel
Women and Media Collective

Ms. Kumudini Therese Samuel has directed Sri Lanka’s Women and Media Collective since 1997, providing resources to and fostering networks among women seeking to advance their rights. Ms. Samuel has advised government bodies on gender and peace, including as an advisory member of the Parliamentary Women’s Caucus; a member of the Sub-Committee on Gender Issues; and a member of the National Advisory Council on Peace and Reconciliation. Ms. Samuel also directs the South Asia Women’s Fund and has consulted on gender and development for UNFPA and on citizenship and good governance for the International Centre for Ethnic Studies project on securing a quota for women in Sri Lanka’s political process.

Mrs. Chandrani Senaratna
Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Sri Lanka

Dr. Janaki Vidanapathirana
Consultant and Community Physician, Ministry for Health Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka

Dr. M. M. S. S. B. Yalegama
Director, Planning, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs
III. NATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR ELDERS

Mr. Suvinda S. Singapulli  
*Director, National Secretariat of Elders, Sri Lanka*

Mr. Suvinda Singapulli is the Director of the National Secretariat of Elders. The National Secretariat for Elders of the Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare of Sri Lanka has been established under the Protection of Elders Rights Act No. 9 of 2000. In 2016, the National Secretariat of Elders has provided certificate courses on care-giving to meet the increasing demands of elderly home in the country.

IV. AFPPD

Ms. Mika Marumoto, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director, AFPPD*

Ms. Mika Marumoto is the Executive Director of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). Ms. Marumoto is currently working with AFPPD’s Standing Committees on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, Investing in Youth, and Active Ageing. Prior to her current position, Ms. Marumoto was a Special Advisor for Management and Governance, serving on the AFPPD Task Force on Transparency, Accountability and Governance. She also worked as a development practitioner and strategy consultant for organizations including the ADB, UNFPA, UNDP, the World Bank Group, and McKinsey & Company.