

by
Sonali Samarasinghe, Minister
Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

Reference: the State of Sri Lanka

But in this quest, we must also do everything we can to nurture a culture of peace. And if we are to reflect more fully the standard setting norms of international law in domestic law, it is vital for us to have a greater commitment to build a culture of peace, and recognize the need for continuing efforts.

Sri Lanka also believes that achieving justice in times of transition from conflict through accountability, redressing victims, and recognizing the rights of victims, promotes civic trust, and strengthens the democratic rule of law. In this regard, States have a duty to guarantee that violations will not re-occur, and a special duty, to reform institutions that have proven to be incapable of preventing such abuses in the past.

Neither can we forget the application of the Rule of Law to sustainable development. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets provide the ample tool kit for the promotion of a culture of peace. This is particularly reflected in Goal 16 on promotion

equality and non-interference, the prohibition

obligation to settle international disputes peacefully.

It is vital that all states have an equal opportunity to participate in the international law making process. It is also a principle that protects all states, especially developing

countries, from the harshness of an empirically unequal world.

Furthermore the Rule of Law is not a concept that can be externally enforced nor can it conform to an external prescription that ignores domestic realities. In order to be effective, it must be sensitive to the

process and also its work regarding the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the

In conclusion Mr. Chairperson, Sri Lanka will continue its efforts to reinforce the rule of law within its domestic legal system and looks forward to contributing actively and decisively to efforts to strengthen the rule of law at the international and national levels.

Thank you