



## Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN, Geneva

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### **“Let us all be eco-centered rather than ego-centered” – Health Minister Maithripala Sirisena**

Minister of Health and Vice President of the 67<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly, Maithripala Sirisena, addressing the World Health Assembly today (20<sup>th</sup> May 2014) said “the World Health Assembly has a historic opportunity to once again appeal to the world community to demand those countries releasing large amount of carbon-dioxide and offensive gases to the atmosphere - to adopt carbon free energy sources to run their industries. These developed nations should be held responsible for releasing large quantities of offensive gases, and the people in developing and poor countries are the victims that have to bear the consequences. Let us all be eco-centered rather than ego-centered so that we can all live happily and with good health and leave to the future generations a much better and a healthy place to live in.

Minister Sirisena is leading the Sri Lankan delegation currently attending the sixty-seventh session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) taking place in Geneva during 19–24 May 2014. During the Opening Session on Monday (19 May 2014) in Geneva, Minister of Health Maithripala Sirisena was elected as one of the Vice Presidents of the World Health Assembly.

The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO and is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.

Full Statement of Hon. Minister of Health is attached herewith.

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20 May 2014