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வெளிநாட்டு அமைச்சு  
FOREIGN MINISTRY

ජනරජ නොවිනැවිල්ල, නො.ල. 1, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව, ලුකාණුව, කොළඹ 1, Republic Building, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

## Media Release

### **Sri Lanka and Afghanistan sign MoU on Establishment of a Political Consultations Mechanism between Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan**

Today (07/04), Sri Lanka and Afghanistan signed the MoU on Establishment of a Political Consultations Mechanism between Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan.

The MoU that provides for regular engagement and partnership between the two South Asian countries was signed by Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and representing the Government of Afghanistan, by Afghan Ambassador in Colombo Ashraf Haidari.

Under the MoU, the two countries expressed confidence that Sri Lanka – Afghanistan bilateral partnership will grow further through active facilitation by both Foreign Ministries, thus enabling a yearly review of the whole gamut of bilateral relations.

This would cover areas such as political, economic, security, culture, health, social, people – to – people contacts and other areas of common interest including regional cooperation.

With this MoU, Sri Lanka completes the establishment of bilateral instruments of Political Consultations or Foreign Office Consultations with all countries in South Asia. The signed MoU remains an important bilateral instrument in the history of 63 years of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to further enhance bilateral relations and to hold an inaugural session of the Political Consultations at a mutually convenient time in the near future. Close cooperation in economic and trade matters as well as connectivity with neighbours, and Members of the SAARC remains Sri Lanka's foremost Economic Diplomacy goal.

Both sides underscored the high potential areas for bilateral trade, including tea, gem and jewellery, dry fruits, nuts and cereal and highlighted that direct air connectivity would provide both countries to have closer cooperation in tourism, cultural and social engagements.

The State Minister for Regional Cooperation, Tharaka Balasuriya, Foreign Secretary Admiral Prof Jayanath Colombage, and officials of the Afghan Embassy in Colombo and Foreign Ministry were associated with the event.

Foreign Ministry  
Colombo

07 April 2021



