I. COUNTRY PROFILE

Political system
- The country is a presidential republic
- President: H.E. Mr Gotabaya Rajapaksa (since 18 November 2019)
- Premier Minister: H.E. Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa (since 21 November 2019)
- Minister of Foreign affairs Dinesh Gunawardena (since 24 November 2019)

Statistical data (source: UNDP Human Development Report)
- Population (millions): 22.0
- Human Development Index: 0.782 / 72e rank
- Life expectancy at birth (years): 77
- Gross national income per capita (2011 PPP$): 12,707
- Internet users (% of population): 34.1
- Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (tons): 1.1
- Education (source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics)
  - Expected years of schooling: 14.1
  - Compulsory years of education: 11 (from age 5 to 15)
  - Net enrolment ratio in primary education (%): 99.1
  - Net enrolment ratio in secondary education (%): 91
  - Expenditure on education (% of GDP and of total budget): 2.12/11.3

II. COOPERATION WITH UNESCO

1. Membership of UNESCO: since 14 November 1949
2. Membership on the Executive Board: no
3. Membership of Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, etc.:
   - Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC): Member
   - Intergovernmental Council for the International Hydrological Programme (Term expires: 41st General Conference)
   - Intergovernmental Council of the "Management of Social Transformations" Programme (Term expires: 41st General Conference)
   - Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee
   - Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
4. Visits of the Director-General in the country: 0
5. Visits of the former Director-General in the country: 1
   - 14 – 17 August 2016
6. Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:
   - H.E. Ms Kshaniika Hirimburegama, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate (28 January)
   - Ms Thilini Jayasekara Deputy Permanent Delegate
   - Ms Ruvini Munidasa, First Secretary
   - Previous Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Buddhi Athauda
   - Sri Lanka is covered by New Delhi Office.
8. **National Commission for UNESCO:**
   - Date of establishment: 1949
   - Chairman: Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris, Minister of Education (former Minister of Foreign Affairs), (since August 2020)
   - Secretary-General: Dr. Punchi Nilame Meegaswatte (since 2020)

9. **Personalites linked to UNESCO's activities:**
   - **Professor Anoja Fernando** is a member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) since 2016 and currently serves as rapporteur of the Committee and is actively involved in the drafting of reports. Prof. Fernando is a professor emeritus and former dean at the faculty of medicine, University of Ruhuna, Sri-Lanka. She is also former Chair of the National Bioethics of Sri-Lanka, former president of Asian Bioethics Association and Sri Lanka Medical Association.

10. **UNESCO Chairs:**


12. **Category 2 Institutes and Centres:** 1
   - South Asian Centre for Teacher Development in Meepe (since 2014)

13. **Biosphere Reserves:** 4
   - Hurulu (1977)
   - Sinharaja (1978)
   - Bundala (2005)

14. **World Heritage sites:** 8

   **Cultural sites:**
   - Ancient City of Polonnaruwa (1982)
   - Ancient City of Sigiriya (1982)
   - Sacred City of Anuradhapura (1982)
   - Sacred City of Kandy (1988)

   **Natural sites:**
   - Sinharaja Forest Reserve (1988)
   - Central Highlands of Sri Lanka (2010)

15. **Tentative List:** 3 properties
   - Seruwila Mangala Raja Maha Vihara (2006)
   - Seruwila to Sri Pada (Sacred Foot Print Shrine), Ancient pilgrim route along the Mahaweli river in Sri Lanka (2010)
   - Ancient Ariyakara Viharaya in the Rajagala Archaeological Reserve (27/02/2020)

16. **Intangible Heritage Lists:** 1
   - Rūkada Nātya, traditional string puppet drama in Sri Lanka (2018)

17. **Memory of the World Register:** 2 elements
   - The Indian Ocean Tsunami Archives (2017)

18. **Creative Cities Network:** none
19. **Legal instruments: 17 ratified and 23 non-ratified**

**Ratified:**
- Convention for the protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

**Not yet ratified:**
- Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions (2005)

20. **Anniversary with which UNESCO is associated in 2020-2021:** None

21. **Participation Programme:**
- 2020-2021: 4 national projects and 1 regional project for a total amount of US$ 105,000 are submitted (to be approved).
- 2018-2019: 3 projects have been recommended by the Intersectoral Committee of 28 March 2019 for a total amount of US$ 69,000.
- 2016-2017: 3 projects have been approved by the DG and paid for a total amount of US$ 75,000 and 2 emergency assistance requests for a total amount of US$ 100,000.
- 2014-2015: 3 projects approved for a total amount of US$ 62,000
- 2012-2013: 4 projects approved for a total amount of US$ 91,000
- 2010-2011: 5 national projects and 1 regional project approved for a total amount of US$ 147,000 and 1 emergency assistance for an amount of US$ 35,000

22. **Fellowships:**
- Since 2010, 10 fellowships have been awarded to Sri Lanka for a total amount of US$ 224,512

23. **Payment of assessed membership fees for 2021:** unpaid
- (Assessment rate: 0.057%; contributions assessed for 2021: US$ 149,239)

24. **Invoicing of the Permanent Delegation:**

25. **Representation within the Secretariat:** non-represented (min.2, max.4)