

## **President's Speech in the UN General Assembly**

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has called for decisive and urgent multilateral action to address the great threat posed by climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Addressing the 76<sup>th</sup> United Nation General Assembly in New York, the President cited the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on "Climate Change" which highlighted the deeply worrying "unprecedented effect of human activity on the health of the planet is deeply worrying".

He said "addressing the grave threats posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity requires decisive and urgent multilateral action. As a climate-vulnerable country, Sri Lanka is deeply aware of the dangers of climate change. Sri Lanka's philosophical heritage, deeply rooted in Lord Buddha's teachings, also emphasizes the vitality of preserving environmental integrity."

The President's address to the General Assembly also emphasized several global challenges which require collective endeavours by the International Community including the Covid -19 pandemic and the need for collective efforts to economic recovery, collective action to address the global challenge of terrorism. He informed the plans for the establishment in Sri Lanka of a Regional knowledge Hub jointly with the WHO to facilitate exchange of lessons learned from the Covid-19 Pandemic. President Rajapaksa also highlighted the "the need to treat all the states equally, irrespective of size, strength, equitably, and with due respect for their institutions and their heritage" and called for the United Nations and the

International Community to ensure the protection of the Buddhist heritage of Afghanistan.

While outlining Sri Lanka's "firm intention to build a prosperous, stable and secure future for all Sri Lankans, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or gender" he assured "We are ready to engage with all domestic stakeholders and to obtain the support of our international partners and the United Nations, in this process". He said "However, history has shown that lasting results can only be achieved through home-grown institutions reflecting the aspirations of the people. Sri Lanka's Parliament, Judiciary and its range of independent statutory bodies should have unrestricted scope to exercise their functions and responsibilities.

Full Speech: [Click link for full speech](#)

Full Video: <https://youtu.be/0yttqpTMkvQ>