

## **Calls for Urgent Debt Restructuring and Comprehensive Approach to Support**

### **Middle-Income Nations**

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, participating in a high-level panel discussion at the Global Leaders' Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, in Paris on 22 June, discussed the country's experience with debt restructuring and the need for a comprehensive approach to address the challenges faced by middle-income nations.

The President said Sri Lanka faced limited access to financing and took ownership of its debt and economic restructuring program. The president emphasized the need for timely and automatic access to concessional financing and highlighted the high costs incurred during the process. He also called for improved interaction between creditors and debtors and suggests a new approach to address geopolitical issues.

President Wickremesinghe emphasized the urgency of restructuring to avoid instability and advocated for a separate process for middle-income countries to address their unique challenges. He expresses gratitude for the IMF's intervention and Sri Lanka's coordination, which allowed dealing with both creditor groups. Ongoing negotiations with Japan, India, and China regarding trade integration and development programs also aided the process. However, President Wickremesinghe highlights the need for improved interaction between the committee and debtors during the restructuring process, suggesting that a new approach is necessary. And restructuring is needed. I agree with it. It has to move fast, otherwise, most countries, whether low-income countries or middle-income countries, will not have much hope and there will be more instability, political and economic instability. And without creating a separate process under this roundtable, we should deal with the issues of middle-income countries because most are under stress. It's better to deal with them under stress than when they are bankrupt. So that process has to evolve.

## **President, UN Secretary General Discuss Economic Recovery, Climate Prosperity**

### **Plan at Summit in Paris**

President Wickremesinghe held a bilateral meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact on 22 June. The meeting served as an opportunity for President Wickremesinghe to provide an update on

the progress made in Sri Lanka's economic recovery and debt restructuring efforts, as well as to present the Government's ambitious climate prosperity plan. During the meeting, President Wickremesinghe apprised Secretary General Guterres on the significant strides achieved in the process of economic recovery and the ongoing initiatives to restructure the country's debt. The President highlighted the government's commitment to implementing sustainable economic policies and fostering a resilient financial framework to ensure long-term stability.

Expressing his unwavering support, Secretary General Guterres assured President Wickremesinghe of the United Nations' strong commitment to assisting Sri Lanka in its economic recovery and debt sustainability endeavours. The meeting between President Wickremesinghe and Secretary General Guterres underscored the collaborative spirit between Sri Lanka and the United Nations in tackling the multifaceted issues of economic recovery, debt restructuring, and climate change. It highlighted the importance of international cooperation in fostering sustainable and inclusive growth for Sri Lanka, while achieving the SDGs.