

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL
AND
THE GOVERNEMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

The Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, hereinafter called "the Signatories",

RECALLING the Cooperation Agreement between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Migration Matters signed on 4 October 2016;

RECALLING the international multilateral instruments in the field of migration and development the Signatories are parties to;

STRIVING to further the democratic principles and the rule of law and COMMITTING to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments;

CONSCIOUS of the link between migration and development as reflected also in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the need for migration to be understood in a holistic and comprehensive approach;

DESIRING, on the basis of the principle of reciprocity, to deepen and expand their dialogue and co-operation in the field of migration, to identify opportunities offered therein and to find constructive solutions to the challenges of global migration;

DETERMINED to combat the negative consequence of irregular migration and to conduct a migration policy that takes into consideration the interest of the country of origin, destination and transit as well as the interest and rights of the migrants;

Have reached an understanding to enhance their cooperation through a Migration Partnership as follows:

The Signatories intend to consider ways of establishing a regular and constant dialogue and a common reflective process on migration matters beneficial to both countries, especially in the areas listed hereafter:

- Management of migration flows;
- Prevention of irregular migration;
- Readmission of nationals, stateless persons and of third-country nationals;
- Return assistance and reintegration;
- Capacity building in migration governance matters;
- Prevention of smuggling of migrants and fight against trafficking in human beings;
- Visa issues, consular and related administrative matters;
- Vocational training;
- Promotion of safe and regular migration for sustainable development through a comprehensive engagement on all levels;
- Strengthening framework conditions for Diaspora investment in Sri Lanka;
- Integration;
- Projects promoting rule of law and reconciliation.

The Federal Department of Justice and Police, on behalf of the Swiss Federal Council, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, oversee the implementation of the Migration Partnership described in the present Memorandum of Understanding, if necessary through the establishment of a mechanism for bilateral consultations.

The provisions of the present Memorandum of Understanding do not create any legal rights and obligations between the Signatories.

Signed in Colombo on this 6th day of August 2018, in duplicate in the German, Sinhala, Tamil and English languages. In case of differences in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Swiss Federal Council

**For the Government of the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**