



# ANNUAL 2023

## United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

Affiliate of the World Federation of United Nations Associations



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**MILLETS**  
2023



78<sup>th</sup>

# United Nations Day

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# ANNUAL 2023



## United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

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# UN Secretary-General's United Nations Day Message



24 October

The United Nations is a reflection of the world as it is – and an aspiration of the world we know it can be.

It is our responsibility to help build that world of peace, sustainable development and human rights for all.

I know we can do it. The Charter of the United Nations – which entered into force 78 years ago today – points the way.

Above all, it is rooted in a spirit of determination to heal divisions, repair relations, and build peace.

To expand opportunities, and leave no one behind.

To ensure justice, equality and empowerment for women and girls.

To provide life-saving relief to those in need.

And to be flexible enough to address challenges that did not even exist when the UN was born – from the existential climate crisis to the perils and promise of artificial intelligence.

The United Nations is guided by timeless values and principles, but it must never be frozen in time. That is why we must always keep strengthening ways of working and applying a 21st century lens to all we do.

On this United Nations Day, let us commit with hope and determination to build the better world of our aspirations.

Let us commit to a future that lives up to the name of our indispensable organization.

We are a divided world. We can and must be united nations.



## United Nations Association of Sri Lanka Message of the Chief Guest



I am deeply pleased to issue this message to the United Nations Association (UNA) of Sri Lanka on this momentous occasion. For nearly eight decades since its inception in 1945, the United Nations has provided an invaluable service to the global community. What began as a single institution has given birth to large number of conglomerate of organizations, influencing virtually all sectors of humanity. The expansion and impact of the UN are not only remarkable but deserve appreciation from every sector of the world community.

The United Nations Association of Sri Lanka has consistently upheld the significance of this day with unparalleled reverence. Beyond merely commemorating UN Day, UNA Sri Lanka has been at the forefront of executing various programs, with a principal focus on the SDG's. It is especially heartening to see the targeted efforts aimed at empowering the youth of the country.

As we laud the achievements and steadfastness of UNA Sri Lanka, we must pause and pay tribute to the indelible legacy of the late Kumaran Fernando. serving as the secretary of the UNA for several years; he personified the spirit and ideals of the United Nations. His unparalleled service and the magnanimous gesture of donating a part of his residence to UNA Sri Lanka stand as testament to his unwavering commitment and dedication to the Association.

I am heartened to observe that the present President and the committee remain committed with the same spirit and dedication that has always defined UNA Sri Lanka.

I extend my heartfelt wishes to the Committee and all the members for continued success in all their endeavors.

With warm regards,

S.A.C.M. Zuhyle

**Mr. Mohamed Zawahir**  
**President**  
**United Nations Association of Sri Lanka**  
**Message on the 78<sup>th</sup> UN Day National Observance**



Happy Birthday! – 78<sup>th</sup> birthday is certainly a milestone to celebrate the great contribution United Nations has made for the betterment of the world. We are living in a world in which change is the only thing that does not change therefore we are pushed into a situation where each one of us has a role to play in taking up the present-day challenges and moving towards a brighter future of this wonderful world.

We at the United Nations Association are celebrating the 73<sup>rd</sup> year. We have embarked on a journey to inform the common people the irreplaceable work of the UN to the common people.

I am delighted to understand the commitment of the Youth forum of UNA and their successful activities carried out during the year under the leadership of the President and guidance given by Mr Ashoka Perera of the UNA.

Our association was formed on 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1950 with guidance of Minister of Defence, Foreign Minister and the first Prime Minister the Right Honourable D S Senanayake PC MP. The first President of the Association was Major Montague Jayawickrama MP Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs.

Just within a year we were admitted being the sole National Affiliate of the WFUNA – World Federation of United Nations Associations. Today one of the most senior members of the Federation actively involved the work of WFUNA.

In 1981 we introduced the study circle program in the country on approval from the Ministry of Education and the first school was Sri Dhammasara Piyaratana Madya Maha Vidyalaya Dodanduwa, incidentally the first Buddhist School in Sri Lanka. Today it is one of our largest projects in the association spreading fast among the schools.

In 1987 the then Secretary General Ambassador Javier Perez De Cueliar declared the UNASL a Peace Messenger organization of the UN. We are rooted in the values of the Association that has been built strongly by our former Secretary General Late Mr Kumaran Fernando.

We nurture effective well-informed society with engagement and empowerment of the youth of this country to take up the most challenging roles in making SDGs a success. The association gives a platform with for the youngsters to showcase their talents.

Our Association as for all NGO's are well aware of the challenges that lie ahead and we are prepared to do what it takes to see that the association keeps growing towards our goals. We are indeed privileged to have an amazing committee with a multitude of strengths that would support this Association in keeping true to our mission. We look towards the further support and collaboration of our supporters – The United Nations in Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On this great occasion where we celebrate the birthday, we are also thankful to all those who contributed to the success of this event.

*Annual 2023*



**Mr. Errol Smith**  
**Secretary General**  
**United Nations Association of Sri Lanka**  
**Message on the 78<sup>th</sup> UN Day National Observance**



It is with great pleasure that I send this message when the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka (UNASL) commemorates the 78<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day National Observance. This also marks the 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations Association in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The United Nations Association of Sri Lanka (UNASL) was established on the 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1950, five years before Sri Lanka was admitted as a Member State of the United Nations on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1955, together with 15 other countries

UNASL was admitted as the sole National Affiliate of the World Federation of United Nations Association (WFUNA), in 1951, joining the rest of the world comprising over 120 member countries, in hosting seminars, lectures, educational sessions and inter-school competitions throughout the country, thus creating a better understanding among communities.

I am indeed proud to have been re-elected for the seventh consecutive term as the Secretary General of this prestigious Association, which has once again been transformed into an active and vibrant organization over the past seven years.

We are currently living in a world where:

- Conflicts are disrupting the lives and livelihoods of millions.
- The nuclear threat is growing.
- Human rights are under assault and humanitarian needs are at record levels.
- Inequalities are growing wider and the prospects of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals are growing more distant.
- Climate disasters are becoming more frequent, more deadly, and more costly.
- One in three countries is at high risk of a fiscal crisis, and almost half of those in extreme below the poverty line in countries with severe fiscal problems.

In this context, the role of the United Nations has never been more vital, resulting in it having to step up its efforts to help accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in order to build a more inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism for the 21st century. Further, it is also determined to advance peace, sustainable development and human rights.

The UNA-Sri Lanka continues to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development Council, the United Nations Organization in Sri Lanka and the UN Information Center. The support, co-operation and encouragement extended to us has always been very encouraging and rewarding.

Further, we are focusing on the youth of our nation which is yet another vulnerable sector that needs to be nurtured and directed in the right direction and the UNASL Schools Study Circle has always been an excellent platform for us to ensure this.

Let us all look forward to a brighter future, which will afford us the opportunity to carry out the gigantic tasks ahead and take the message of the United Nations to the grassroots, whilst disseminating information and guidelines on all important matters.

**Dr. Amitha P. Bentota**  
**Former Additonal Director General of**  
**Agriculture (Research), Department of**  
**Agriculture, Sri Lanka**



The millet is the group of small seeded cereals belongs to family Graminae. It is domesticated and cultivated over 10000 years ago in Africa and then distributed throughout the world as human food. Excellent adaptability of this hardy crop group to adverse agro-climatic variations and low water requirement play an important role in agriculture. In semi-arid tropics in Africa and Asia made it as one of the ancient staple human foods. Even at present this group of crops showed their resistance to pests and diseases, short age, and better productivity especially under hardy and drought conditions when major cereals such as rice and maize cannot be relied upon to provide sustainable yield. Similarly, the millet group of crops do not demand higher production input such as inorganic fertilizer.

In Sri Lanka a number of different millets types such as Proso, Foxtail and Finger millets (varieties Oshadha and Rawana) have been grown and utilized for centuries. Of many millet types, finger millet (Kurakkan or Kurahan in Sinhala and Kezhvaraku in Tamil) plays a major role in the country. Though the present cultivation extent of millet reduces drastically due to open economy and government policies implemented to increase the food production in the country this staple grain has been able to assure food and nutrient security for Sri Lankans for many centuries while contributing to improving their health. Vitamin B, iron and calcium are rich in finger millet. It is also rich in dietary fiber providing an excellent remedy for constipation. It is low in fat content while rich in carbohydrate and make people healthy avoiding overweight. The slow digestion process of finger millet helps to lower the blood sugar among diabetic patients.

Hence it is obvious that paying attention to the cereal crops belonging to millet group directly impacting on the 5 sustainable development goals listed below, of the 17 declared by UN.

Goal 02: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 03: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and pause & reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Hence, I am proud to mention that declaring “2023 the international year of Millet” by UN will give an opportunity to revisit and implement vital programme on cereal crop group Millet in the respective countries to meet the urgent environmental, political, and economic challenges facing in world to achieve sustainable growth policies.



Fig 1. Millet types available in Sri Lanka



Foxtail millet  
(*Setaria italica*)



Oshadha  
(*Eleusine coracana*)



Rawana  
(*Eleusine coracana*)



Proso millet  
(*Panicum miliaceum*)



Kodo millet  
(*Paspalum scrobiculatum*)



White finger millet  
(*Eleusine coracana*)

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**IN THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC**  
**OF SRI LANKA**

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(First Executive President of the Republic of  
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- H.E. the late Ranasinghe Premadasa  
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- Desamanya Ambassador Nissanka Wijewardena  
(Former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, former Chairman of Bank of Ceylon, former Chairman of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission and former Secretary to the last Governor-General)
- The late Desamanya Ambassador Neville Kanakarathne

(Former Governor Southern Province, former Ambassador to the USA and the USSR, former High Commissioner to India, former Legal Advisor to three former Secretaries General of the United Nations and former UN Commissioner for Nambiar)

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- The Hon. Solomon West Ridgeway Dias Bandaranayaka, MP
- The Hon. Dr. Wijayananda Dahanayaka, MP
- The Hon. Sirimavo Ratwatte Dias Bandaranaike, MP
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- The Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe, MP

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- Daniel Bollegala
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- Mahendra Amarasuriya
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**2022-2023**

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Chandani Vitharanage





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**Telephone:** Res: ..... **From:** Name: .....  
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**Date:** .....

The Secretary – General  
**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA (UNASL)**  
National Secretariat General (NSG)  
39/1, Cyril Jansz Mawatha  
PANADURA

Dear Sir,

I am interested in applying for membership in the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka (UNASL)  
Please find enclosed herewith my remittance and Membership Application form duly perfected and signed, for your kind consideration.

In case my membership application is not considered favourably/rejected, I note that in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the UNASL, the remittance made will be refunded to me and that I will not be eligible to re-apply for a period of two years from date thereof.

.....  
(Signature)

### NOTE:

On receipt of the duly completed Membership Application Form, the prospective member may be called for an interview, before the Membership Sub-Committee and his/her application will be taken up for consideration at the next meeting of the National Executive Committee, following the date on which the said applicant has been interviewed.

All applicants are required to submit with their applications, a certified true copy of his/her National Identity Card (in case of overseas members the Passport) and the original Affidavit duly filled, signed and attested.

On approval of the Membership Application, the applicant is entitled to a Membership Card which will be sent, along with our Official Receipt.

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#### Membership Subscriptions:

Special Life Membership – Rs.25,000.00, Life Membership – Rs.5,000.00 (Resident Sri Lankans)

Life Membership for Sri Lankans (Resident Overseas) - Rs.25,000.00

Special Life Membership (Overseas) – US\$. 1,000.00

Corporate Membership – Rs.250,000.00, Corporate Membership (Overseas) – US\$.2,500.00

Cheque, should be drawn in favour of the **United Nations Association of Sri Lanka**, crossed **A/C Payee only** and sent to the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka, National Secretariat, 39/1, Cyril Jansz Mawatha, Panadura. SRI LANKA, whilst cash payments should be made at our National Secretariat, during office hours.

# 77<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day of year 2022



Head Table

Left to Right

SG – Mr. Errol G. Smith, Ambassador D. L. Mendis, UNASL President Mr. M. M. Zawahir, Executive Chairman – Dr. M. M. M. Rushanudeen

77<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2022 at Lakshman Kadirgamar Center, Colombo 07. Participant were Ambassadors, Official Invitees and UN Members.

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From*

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# UNASL Annual General Meeting for the year 2022/ 2023



**UNASL President Mr. M. M. Zawahir hoisting the UN Flag, SG Mr. Errol G. Smith hoisting the Sri Lanka National Flag, Committee Members taken the Oath of Office and 2022/2023 Executive Committee Members Group Photo.**



# 78th UN Charter Day



78th Anniversary Observance of Signing the United Nations Charter held on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 at the Renuka City Hotel, Colombo

# YOUTH FORUM



Form up of the Youth Forum  
2022/2023 Youth Group

# HEALTH CAMP HELD ON PRINCE OF WALES COLLEGE MORATUWA



Organized by the Lions Club, Panadura in collaboration with Youth Group of the UN Association



# BOOK DONATION PROJECT CONDUCTED AT MALAMULLA MAHA VIDYALAY PANADURA



Books handed over by the President Mr. Rakeeb Zawahir of Youth Committee & Participant Youth Committee



# Beach Cleanup successfully carried out in Panadura



Pictures of the members who participated

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023



Worthey event focusing on 100 pregnant mothers to developed morality of motherhood held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023. UNASL President Mr. Zawahir, & Secretary General Mr. Errol G. Smith Donated a Gift Pack to pregnant Mothers



# PEACE DAY YEAR 2023 COMMEMORATED AT SRI SAUGATHA VIDYALAYA, PANADURA



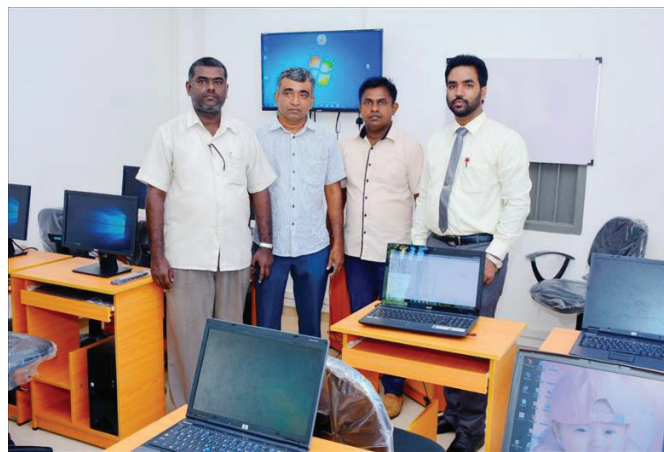
Held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023. Peace Flag was Hoisting by the Venerable Panadura Vijithananda thero, UNASL President Mr. Zawahir was hoisting the UN Flag & SG Mr. Errol G. Smith was hoisting the Sri Lanka National Flag.



Under Study Circle project, conducted competition on Speech, Essay writing and General Knowledge which held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2023



# REFORM COMPUTER TRAINING CENTER FOR THE YEAR 2023



Our sincere appreciation and thanks to Dr. G. D. Upali Jayawardena, Assistant Secretary General who has ungrudgingly devoted his time in compiling the Annual 2023, and to the learned contributors who have demonstrated their scholarship in providing articles. We also wish to thank for the contribution made by our valuable sponsors to the annual.

*Thank  
you*



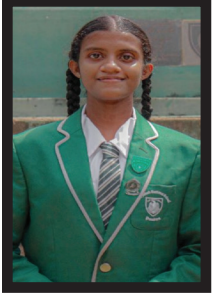




**Mr. Dharmadasa Vitharana**  
*Editor*  
*United Nations Association of Sri Lanka*

# WINNERS OF SPEECH CONTEST - 2023

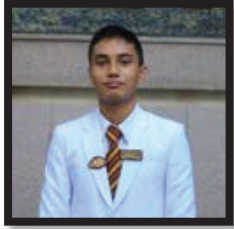




<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>Senuth Dilnada Wanniarachchi</b> Mahinda College, Galle	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>W. R. C. S. Bandara</b> Kegalu College, Kegalle	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>J. D. Matheesha Prashastha Jayasekara</b> Hanwella Rajasinghe Central College, Hanwella	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Place</b>	<b>P. R. N. Pelawaththa</b> Vijaya College, Mathale	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Place</b>	<b>D. G. Hirushi Wandana Guruge</b> Royal College, Kegalle	

# WINNERS OF ESSAY CONTEXT - 2023

No.	School Name	Student Name
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	<b>C. Chaturmi Katipearachchi</b> Southland College, Galle	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	<b>P. T. G. Anuththara Nethmini</b> Vijaya College, Mathale	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	<b>A G Kusali Hansika</b> St. John College, Panadura	
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	<b>B. G. Tharani Chathushika</b> Hanwella Rajasinghe Central College, Hanwella	
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	<b>R. R. Imasha Sandaneththi Bandara</b> St. Josep Girls' College, Kegalle	



# WINNERS OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CONTEST - 2023

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>J. D. B. Wijekoon</b> Ananda College, Colombo	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>P. M. Manula Nadiaha Rathnayaka</b> Hanwella Rajasinghe Central College, Hanwella	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>D. M. Jonikkuhewa</b> Mahamaya Girls School, Kandy	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Place</b>	<b>M. S. Wijemanna</b> Mahinda College, Galle	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Place</b>	<b>Methuni C. Karunaratne</b> Southland College, Galle	

**O/L, A/L වලින් පසුව මොකද කරන්නේ? Medium : සිංහල தமிழ் English**  
**පසුව අතිමානවත් සහ විශාල ආදායමක් සහිත වෘත්තීයකර**

එන්න අපි හරිතැනකින් හරියටම පටන් ගමු  
 ඔබේ දැනුම් මට්ටම කුමක් වුනත් ගැටලුවක් නැත බය නැතිව එන්න..

# ජංගම දුරකථන අලුත්වැඩියා පුහුණුව Mobile Phone Repair Training

භාෂ්‍යාදායක ගිණුම්වලට පිවිසීමේ පුහුණු පාරිභෝගිකයන්ගේ පාලන ක්‍රම

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වසර 28කට අධික කාලයක් න්‍යායික හා ප්‍රයෝගික පළපුරුදු සහ වෘත්තීය මාර්ගෝපදේශන සේවයේ ක්‍රියාකාරී සමාජිකයකු ලෙස මනෝ විද්‍යාත්මක ක්‍රමවේද යොදා ගනිමින් මෙහෙයවීම

**වයස් සීමාවක් නැත, කැමති ඔහු අයෙකුට සහභාගී විය හැකිය.**

දක්ෂ ජංගම දුරකථන අලුත්වැඩියා ශිල්පීන්ගේ වෘත්තීය ජංගම දුරකථන අලෙවිය හා සේවා ක්ෂේත්‍රය ජය ගන්න.

## Mobile Phone Repair Training



**තනි තනිව සිසුන් පුහුණු කෙරේ.**

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