

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

Part II of September 02, 2022

SUPPLEMENT

(Issued on 07.09.2022)



SRI LANKA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

A

BILL

**to provide for the establishment of the Sri Lanka National Commission
for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO); and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto**

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Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO

L.D.—O 46/2008

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SRI LANKA
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO); AND FOR
MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO

Be it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka as follows: -

1. This Act may be cited as the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO Act, No. of 2022. Short title

5

PART I

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SRI LANKA NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
UNESCO

2. (1) There shall be established a Commission which shall be called the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”). Establishment of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO

(2) The Commission shall, by the name assigned to it by subsection (1), be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in such name.

3. The objects of the Commission shall be:- Objects of the Commission

15 (a) to provide the required forum for international and intellectual co-operation, through the facilitation of a globally connected networking system pertaining to field of competencies of UNESCO;

20 (b) to facilitate the exchange of information in areas related to education, science, culture, mass media and communication through local, regional and global programmes organized by UNESCO, thus acting as a clearing house for information in the related fields of competencies of UNESCO;

25

5 (c) to assist the relevant ministries in the follow up and monitoring of the implementation of guidelines which are embodied in the wide range of UNESCO Conventions, to which Sri Lanka is a party;

10 (d) to encourage and facilitate access to strategies which permit the acquisition of knowledge through information from research documents, publications and best practices amongst UNESCO beneficiaries; and

(e) to assist in building capacities of the national institutions in education, science, culture, mass media and communication by conducting workshops, seminars and conferences.

15 **4.** The powers, duties and functions of the Commission shall be – Powers, duties and functions of the Commission

(a) to advise the Government of Sri Lanka on matters relating to UNESCO programmes and projects;

20 (b) to promote and disseminate among UNESCO beneficiaries in Sri Lanka an understanding of the objects, functions and purposes of UNESCO programmes and projects and to conduct meetings, seminars and lectures for that purpose;

25 (c) to work towards the achievement of the objects of the Commission with the co-operation of the relevant government and local autonomous bodies, international non governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, governmental and non governmental organizations, private and public sector institutions;

30

(d) to organize programmes in the fields of education, science, culture, mass media, communication and other relevant disciplines including programmes

focused on capacity building within the relevant ministries and to assist in monitoring and evaluating such programmes;

- 5 (e) to enhance partnerships with the public, private and non-governmental stakeholders including partnerships with the United Nations systems;
- (f) to disseminate information on and recommend candidates for UNESCO awards, fellowships and study grants;
- 10 (g) to mobilize and receive funds for the implementation of programmes;
- (h) to open and maintain, current, savings and deposit accounts in any bank or banks;
- 15 (i) to accept gifts, grants or donations from local or foreign sources, whether in cash or otherwise, for the purpose of discharging the functions of the Commission:
- 20 Provided that, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other provisions of this Act, the Commission shall obtain prior written approval of the Department of External Resources in respect of all foreign grants, gifts or donations in cash;
- 25 (j) to acquire and hold, take or give on lease, mortgage or hire, pledge or sell or otherwise dispose of, any movable or immovable property for the purpose of discharging the functions of the Commission; and
- (k) enter into and perform all such contracts as may be necessary for the exercise, performance and discharge of the powers, duties and functions of the Commission.
- 30

5. The Commission shall consist of-

Constitution
of the
Commission

- (a) the following ex- officio members, namely-
- (i) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister or an additional Secretary of such Ministry;
 - 5 (ii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Higher Education or an additional Secretary of such Ministry;
 - 10 (iii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Technology or his nominee;
 - (iv) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Cultural and Religious Affairs or his nominee;
 - 15 (v) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Mass Media or his nominee;
 - (vi) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Finance or his nominee;
 - 20 (vii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Foreign Relations or his nominee;
 - 25 (viii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Environment or his nominee;
 - (ix) the Chairman of the University Grants Commission established by the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978;
 - 30 (x) the Secretary General of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO;

(xi) the Chairman of the National Science Foundation established by the Science and Technology Development Act, No. 11 of 1994.

5 (b) three members appointed by the Minister from
among persons who have distinguished themselves
in the fields of education, natural science, social
and human science, technology, culture, business
and industry, communication, peace, human rights,
10 Law, Public Administration, journalism,
environment protection, performing arts, music or
literature (hereinafter referred to as the “appointed
members”).

15 **6.** (1) The Minister shall be the Chairperson of the
Commission.

Chairperson
and Vice
Chairperson
of the
Commission

(2) The Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister shall be
the Vice Chairperson of the Commission.

(3) The Vice Chairperson shall hold office of the
Commission, as long as he holds the office by virtue of
20 which he has been appointed to the Commission.

(4) Where the Chairperson is temporarily unable to
exercise, perform and discharge the powers, duties and
functions of his office due to ill health, other infirmity,
absence from Sri Lanka or any other cause, the Vice
25 Chairperson may act as the Chairperson in addition to his
normal duties as the Vice Chairperson.

7. A person shall be disqualified from being appointed
or continuing as a member of the Commission, if he-

Disqualifications
for being
appointed or
continuing as
a member of
the
Commission

30 (a) is or becomes a member, of Parliament, any
Provincial Council or any local authority;

(b) is not, or ceases to be a citizen of Sri Lanka;

- (c) is a person who, having been declared an insolvent or a bankrupt under any law in Sri Lanka or in any other country, is an undischarged insolvent or bankrupt;
- 5 (d) is under any law in force in Sri Lanka or any other country found or declared to be of unsound mind;
- (e) is convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude and punishable with imprisonment for a term not less than six months;
- 10 (f) is serving or has served a sentence of imprisonment imposed by a court of Sri Lanka or any other country;
- (g) holds or enjoys any right or benefit under any contract made by, or on behalf of the Commission;
- 15 (h) has any financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially the discharge by him of his functions as a member of the Commission; or
- (i) is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Commission without the permission of the Commission.
- 20 **8.** Every appointed member of the Commission shall, unless he vacates office earlier by death, resignation or removal, hold office for a period of three years from the date of his appointment and shall, unless he has been removed from office be eligible for re-appointment for not more than
 25 one further term, whether consecutive or otherwise.
- 9.** (1) Any appointed member of the Commission may at any time, resign his office by letter in that behalf addressed to the Minister, and such resignation shall take effect from the date on which the resignation is accepted in writing by
 30 the Minister.
- Terms of office of the appointed members of the Commission
- Removal, resignation etc. of appointed members

(2) The Minister may, for reasons assigned remove any appointed member from office. An appointed member who has been removed from office shall not be eligible for re-appointment as a member of the Commission or to serve the
5 Commission in any other capacity.

(3) In the event of the vacation of office by death, resignation or removal of any appointed member, the Minister shall subject to the provision of section 5(b) appoint another person to fill such vacancy and such person shall
10 hold office for the unexpired period of the term of office of the member whom he succeeds.

(4) Where any appointed member of the Commission is temporarily unable to perform the duties of his office on account of ill health or any other cause or if he is absent from
15 Sri Lanka for a period of not less than three months, the Minister shall subject to the provisions of section 5(b) appoint any other person to act in place of such member during his absence.

(5) Where any appointed member of the Commission fails
20 to attend three consecutive meetings of the Commission without notifying his absence in advance to the Chairperson, such member shall be deemed to have vacated his office and the Minister shall appoint another person to fill such vacancy subject to the provisions of section 5(b).

25 **10.** (1) The *quorum* for any meeting of the Commission shall be seven members and every meeting of the Commission shall be presided by the Chairperson. In the absence of the Chairperson from any meeting of the Commission, any member elected by the members present
30 shall preside at such meeting of the Commission.

Quorum and the Meetings of the Commission

(2) A meeting of the Commission may be held either-

(a) by the number of members who constitute a *quorum* being assembled at the place, date and time appointed for the meeting; or

5 (b) by means of audio - visual communication by which all members participating and constituting a *quorum* can simultaneously see and hear each participating member for the duration of the meeting.

10 (3) All questions for decision at any meeting of the Commission shall be decided by the vote of the majority of members present and voting at such meeting. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall, in addition to his vote, have a casting vote.

 (4) The Commission shall meet at least once in every year. However, special or extraordinary general meetings may be convened, if and when required.

15 (5) Subject to the preceding provisions of this section, the Commission may make rules to regulate the procedure in regard to the conduct of meetings of the Commission and the transaction of business at such meetings.

20 **11.** The Commission may act, notwithstanding any vacancy among its members, and any act or proceeding of the Commission shall not be, or deemed to be, invalid by reason only of the existence of any vacancy among its members or any defect in the appointment of a member thereof.

Acts or proceedings of the Commission deemed not to be invalid by reason of any vacancy

25 **12.** The members of the Commission shall be remunerated in such manner and at such rates as may be determined by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister assigned the subject of finance.

Remuneration of members of the Commission

30 **13.** (1) The seal of the Commission—

Seal of the Commission

 (a) shall be in the custody of such person as the Commission may decide from time to time;

(b) may be altered in such manner as may be determined by the Commission;

5 (c) shall not be affixed to any instrument or document except with the sanction of the Commission and in the presence of two members of the Commission who shall sign the instrument or document in token of their presence.

(2) The Commission shall maintain a register of the
10 instruments and documents to which the seal of the Commission has been affixed.

14. (1) The Commission may appoint in consultation with
relevant authorities, such number of committees and experts
as it considered necessary or expedient to assist in the
15 exercise, performance and discharge of powers, duties and
functions conferred on, assigned to or imposed on, the
Commission by this Act.

Establishment
of
Committees

(2) The committees appointed under subsection (1) shall
be—

20 (a) committee on Education;

(b) committee on Natural Science;

(c) committee on Social and Human Science;

(d) committee on Culture;

25 (e) committee on Communication and Information;
and

(f) intersectoral committee falling within the field of
competences of UNESCO.

(3) The members of the committees appointed under subsection (1), shall possess such qualifications and experience in the fields of education, science, technology and innovation, economics or finance, culture, communication and infrastructure, law, public administration, mass media, oceanography, sustainable development, journalism, environment protection, performing arts, music or literature , cultural heritage and museums or any other relevant field.

(4) A committee appointed under subsection (1), shall regulate the procedures for the transaction of its business and of its meetings.

(5) The members of every committee and experts appointed under subsection (1), shall be paid such allowances and be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in connection with the carrying out of any duties assigned, as the Commission may determine with the concurrence of the Minister assigned the subject of finance.

(6) The members of the committees may or may not be permanent members of the Commission as the Commission may determine.

(7) The Commission may require a committee appointed under this section to act jointly or in cooperation with any other committee of the Commission.

15. (1) The duties and functions of the Committees established under section 14, to assist the relevant Ministries and the concerned stakeholders shall be as follows:-

Duties and functions of the Committees

(a) the committee on Education to—

(i) focus on three fundamental areas for achieving education for all literacy, teachers and skills for the world of work, support in boosting functional literacy and in the design

- and implementation of effective policies and systems for training and retaining teachers to meet current and future demands;
- 5 (ii) promote technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development for the world of work, through upstream policy work;
- 10 (iii) provide capacity development, technical support and policy advice in the different stages of education, from early childhood to higher education, furthering lifelong learning to support building, strengthening and managing effective education systems;
- 15 (iv) support in preparing, renewing and managing the implementation of sector wide plans inclusive of policies in education, and address issues such as health, environment, economy and society, which will have an impact on the entire education sector;
- 20 (v) provide information and assistance for the implementation of recommendations from UNESCO's initiatives at the regional and global levels, covering the education sector from early child care to higher education; and
- 25 (vi) have recourse to UNESCO category I Institutes in Education, viz, UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE), UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), UNESCO Institute for Life Long Learning (UIL) and UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE).
- 30

(b) the committee on Natural Science to –

- 5 (i) provide policy advise and capacity building in science, technology and innovation for sustainable development and poverty eradication by-
- (a) enhancing the leverage of science through integrated science, technology and innovation policy; and
- 10 (b) strengthening science, education and capacity building in basic engineering and applied sciences;
- 15 (ii) develop capacities for sustainable management of freshwater, ocean and terrestrial resources as well as disaster preparedness and mitigation to counter global warming and climate change through-
- 20 (A) promoting the sustainable management and conservation of freshwater, terrestrial resources and biodiversity, as well as disaster resilience; and
- (B) improving governance and fostering inter-governmental cooperation to manage and protect oceans and coastal zones;
- 25 (iii) have recourse to UNESCO, Institute for Water Education (IWE), International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), and other UNESCO specialized programmes and commissions such as the International
- 30 Oceanographic Commission (IOC), International Hydrology Programme (IHP), International Geo-Science Programme (IGCP)

and Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB),
with a view to making important contributions
to the area of the sciences; and

- 5 (iv) enhance partnerships with the public, private
and governmental stakeholders including
multi bilateral, in the field of science and
technology for sustainable development, in
order to create improved synergies between
all key players.
- 10 (c) the committee on Social and Human Science to-
- (i) respond to critical national, regional and
global social challenges by-
- 15 (A) promoting human rights through
programmes in Education, Science,
Culture, Mass Media and
Communication by fostering dialogue
on emerging social issues;
- 20 (B) strengthening research and policy
linkages in the field of social
transformation with a view to providing
scientific policy responses to the likely
social impact of evolving financial and
economic crisis at national, regional
and international levels through
25 dialogue between policy makers and
research communities, which may cover
issues on migrant labour and rapid
urbanization; and
- 30 (C) promote policies on physical
education, sports and anti doping; and
- (ii) address emerging global ethical issues, by
developing policies in the ethics for science
and technology, especially, bio-ethics.

(d) the committee on Culture to-

(i) protect, safeguard and manage the tangible and intangible cultural heritage by way of-

5 (A) protecting and conserving cultural and natural heritage properties, in particular, through the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention guidelines;

10 (B) safeguard the living heritage, particularly through the promotion and implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention guidelines on Intangible Cultural Heritage, which covers areas such as myths, beliefs, rituals, practices, cultural spaces, processions, dances, theatre, drama, chants, modes of communication;

20 (C) enhance the protection of cultural objects and the fight against their illicit trafficking, notably through the promotion and the implementation of the 1970 and 2001 UNESCO conventions, as well as through the development of museums;

25 (D) safeguard the Underwater Cultural Heritage through the implementation of the 2001 UNESCO Convention.

30 (ii) promote the diversity of cultural expressions and the dialogue of cultures, with a view to fostering a culture of peace, through-

(A) the implementation of the guidelines of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on

the Protection and Promotion of the
Diversity of Cultural Expressions and
through the development of cultural
and creative industries;

- 5 (B) the integration of intercultural
dialogue and cultural diversity into
national policies, to promote dialogue
and diversity and to bring the role of
10 culture to the forefront in
development.

(e) the committee on Communication to—

- (i) promote freedom of expression and
information by way of enhancing access to
information through advocacy and
15 monitoring;

- (ii) build capacities for universal access to
information and knowledge through-

- (A) strengthening free, independent and
pluralistic media and
20 communication for sustainable
development by increasing media
content and information literacy and
promotion of the right to
information;

- 25 (B) fostering universal access to
information and knowledge by the
development of appropriate
information structures and Media
Resources Training Centers and the
30 use of information communication
technologies in knowledge
acquisition and sharing.

- (f) the intersectoral committee to coordinate with the UNESCO, in collaboration and partnership with the national institutions in education, science, culture, mass media and communication.

- 5 (2) Any Committee may co-opt other persons whose knowledge and experience it may find necessary for the performance and discharge of the duties and functions.

PART II

10 APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

- 15 **16.** (1) The Minister shall appoint a person who shall have not less than fifteen years of academic or professional experience in the fields of education, natural science, social and human science, culture, communication or administration, as the Secretary General of the Commission. Appointment of the Secretary General of the Commission

(2) The Secretary General shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission and shall be responsible for the affairs of the Commission including-

- (a) the day to day operations of the Commission;
- 20 (b) the management of the funds of the Commission;
- (c) the administration and management of the property of the Commission; and
- (d) the supervision and control of the officers and other staff of the commission.
- 25 (3) The Secretary General shall, submit for the consideration of the Minister, programmes and measures considered by him to be necessary for the purpose of exercising, performing and discharging the powers, duties and functions of the Commission.

(4) The Secretary General shall be entitled to be present, speak and vote, at any meeting of the Commission, or any other Committee established under this Act.

(5) The Secretary General shall ensure that sufficient
5 transparency is maintained in carrying out his duties and functions.

(6) The Secretary General shall submit to the Commission, the three years work plan, the annual plan and programme and the annual budget, for its concurrence.

10 (7) The Secretary General may be paid such remuneration in such manner and at such rates as may be determined by the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister assigned the subject of finance.

15 **17.** (1) The Minister shall appoint a person who shall have ten years of academic or professional experience in the fields of education, natural science, social and human science, culture, communication or administration as the Deputy Secretary General of the Commission.

Appointment
of the
Deputy
Secretary
General of
the
Commission

20 (2) The Deputy Secretary General shall assist the Secretary General to exercise, perform and discharge the powers, duties and functions the Commission.

(3) The Deputy Secretary General may be paid such remuneration in such manner and at such rates as may be determined by the Minister with the concurrence of the
25 Minister assigned the subject of finance.

18. (1) The Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

Term of
office of the
Secretary
General and
the Deputy
Secretary
General

30 (2) The Minister may for reasons assigned remove the Secretary General or the Deputy Secretary General from office.

(3) The office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General shall become vacant upon the death, removal from office or resignation by letter addressed to the Minister.

5 (4) If any vacancy occurs in the office of the Secretary General, the Minister may appoint the Deputy Secretary General to perform the duties of the Secretary General, until an appointment is made to such post.

10 **19.** (1) The Commission may appoint such number of Staff of the Commission officers and employees as it may consider necessary for the efficient exercise, and discharge of its powers and functions, with the prior approval of the Department of Management Services.

15 (2) The Commission may in respect of the officers and employees appointed under subsection (1), exercise disciplinary control over or dismiss such officers and employees and determine the terms and conditions of employment of such officers and employees.

20 (3) The officers and employees appointed to the Commission shall be remunerated in such manner and at such rates, in consultation with the Minister assigned the subject of Finance and shall be subject to such conditions of service as may be determined by the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules
25 made thereunder.

(4) The Commission may establish and regulate provident fund schemes for the benefit of the officers and servants of the Commission who may be recruited outside of the government service and may make contributions to any such
30 scheme.

20. (1) At the request of the Secretary General and with the concurrence of the Minister, any officer in the public service may, with the consent of that officer and of the Public Service Commission be temporarily assigned to the staff of the Commission for such period as may be determined by the Commission with like consent, or be permanently appointed to such staff.

Appointment
of public
officers to
the staff of
the
Commission

(2) Where any officer in the public service is temporarily assigned to the staff of the Commission, the provisions of subsection (2) of section 14 of the National Transport Commission Act, No. 37 of 1991 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to, and in relation to such officer.

(3) Where any officer in the public service is permanently appointed to the staff of the Commission, the provisions of subsection (3) of section 14 of the National Transport Commission Act, No. 37 of 1991 shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply, to and in relation to such officer.

21. (1) At the request of the Commission, any officer or other employee of any higher educational institution established under the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978 may, with the consent of that officer or the employee and the principal executive officer of that higher educational institution, be temporarily appointed to the staff of the Commission. Such appointment shall be for a period as may be determined by the Commission or with like consent be permanently appointed to such staff, on such terms and conditions, including those relating to pension or provident fund rights, as may be agreed upon by the Commission and such principal executive officer.

Appointment
of officers
from higher
educational
institutions to
the
Commission

(2) Where any person is temporarily appointed to the staff of the Commission under subsection (1) such person shall be subject to the same disciplinary control as any other member of the staff of the Commission.

PART III

FINANCE

22. The initial capital of the Commission— Capital of the
Commission

5 (a) shall be such sum as may be determined by
Parliament by way of a resolution; and

 (b) may be increased by such amounts as may
be authorized by an Appropriation Act or
by any resolution of Parliament.

23. (1) The Commission shall have its own Fund. Fund of the
Commission

10 (2) The Fund of the Commission shall comprise of-

 (a) all such sums of money as may be voted
from time to time by Parliament;

15 (b) all such sums of money as may be received
by the Commission by way of interest on
investments, donations, gifts or grants from
any source whatsoever, whether within or
outside Sri Lanka:

20 Provided however, the Commission shall
obtain the prior written approval of the
Department of External Resources of the
Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject
of Finance, in respect of all foreign grants,
25 gifts or donations made and loans,
donations, gifts, bequests, and grants
received from any source within Sri Lanka
shall be credited to the Consolidated Fund
and shall thereafter, with the approval of
the Parliament, be credited to the Fund of
the Commission;

(c) all sums of money received as income from investments made by the Commission.

(3) There shall be paid out of the Fund of the Commission-

5 (a) all such sums of money as are required to defray any expenditure incurred by the Commission in the exercise, performance and discharge of its powers, duties and functions under this Act;

(b) all such sums of money as are required to be paid out of the Fund by or under this Act.

10 **24.** The Commission may open and maintain any account with any bank as it may think appropriate, and such account shall be operated in accordance with the prevailing financial regulations of the Government. Commission to maintain accounts

15 **25.** Any moneys belonging to the Commission may be invested by the Commission in such manner and collect the income accruing from such investments as may be determined, subject to such directions as may be given by the Minister. Investment of the moneys of the Commission

26. (1) The financial year of Commission shall be the calendar year. Financial year and Audit of the accounts of the Commission

20 (2) The Commission shall cause proper books of accounts to be kept of the income and expenditure, assets and liabilities and all other transactions of the Commission.

(3) The provisions of Article 154 of the Constitution relating to the audit of the accounts of public corporations shall apply to, and in relation to the audit of the accounts of the Commission.

PART IV

GENERAL

30 **27.** (1) The Minister may from time to time give such general or special directions in writing to the Commission Directions of the Minister

as to the exercise, perform and discharge the powers, duties and functions of the Commission and it shall be the duty of the Commission to comply with such directions.

(2) The Minister may from time to time, Order all or any
5 of the activities of the Commission to be investigated and reported upon by such person or persons as he may specify, and upon such Order being made, the Commission shall afford all such facilities and furnish all such information to such person or persons as may be necessary to give effect to
10 such Order.

28. The Commission shall, within a period of six months after the closure of each financial year, submit a report giving a full account of its activities during that year to the Minister who shall cause such report to be placed before Parliament,
15 prior to the end of the year next following the year to which such report relates.

29. All members of the Commission, officers and employees of the Commission shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning and for the purpose of the Penal
20 Code (Chapter 19).

30. The Commission shall be deemed to be a Scheduled Institution within the meaning of the Bribery Act (Chapter 26) and the provisions of that Act shall be construed accordingly.

31. (1) Any expense incurred by the Commission in any suit or prosecution brought by or against the Commission before any court shall be paid out of the Fund of the Commission, and any costs paid to, or recovered by, the Commission in any such suit or prosecution shall be
25 credited to the Fund of the Commission.

(2) Any expense incurred by any person in any suit or prosecution brought against him before any court in respect of any act which is done by him under this Act, or on the

direction of the Commission shall, if the court holds that such act was done in good faith, be paid out of the Fund the Commission, unless such expense is recovered by him in such suit or prosecution.

5 **32.** (1) The Commission may make rules in respect Rules
of—

- (a) the appointment, employment and dismissal of officers and their powers, duties and functions;
- 10 (b) the procedure to be observed at the summoning and holding of meetings, annual general meeting and extraordinary meetings of the Commission;
- (c) the administration and management of the affairs of the Commission;
- 15 (d) all matters in respect of which, rules are required or authorized to be made under this Act.

(2) Every rule made under subsection (1) shall be approved by the Minister.

(3) Every rule so approved shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall come into operation upon such publication.

20 **33.** (1) The Minister may make regulations in respect Regulations
all matters which are required by this Act to be prescribed or authorized to be made under this Act.

(2) Every regulation made by the Minister shall be published in the *Gazette*, and shall come into operation on
25 the date of such publication or on such later date as may be specified in the regulation.

(3) Every regulation made by the Minister shall, within three months from its publication in the *Gazette*, be brought before Parliament for approval. Any such regulation, which

is not so approved shall be deemed to be rescinded as from the date of such disapproval, but without prejudice to anything previously done thereunder.

(4) Notification of the date on which any regulation is
5 deemed to be rescinded under subsection (3), shall be published in the *Gazette*.

34. In this Act, unless the context otherwise required:- Interpretation

10 “expert” means a professional with specialized competence in any one of the areas of UNESCO programmes;

“Minister” means the Minister assigned the subject of Education under Article 44 or 45 of the Constitution;

15 “UNESCO” means United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

“UNESCO Programmes” means the five UNESCO areas of competence and includes Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture and Communication and Information.

20 **35.** In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail. Sinhala text to prevail in case of inconsistency

