Sri Lanka

NATIONAL QUALITY POLICY

2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS

BIPM	Bureau International des Poids et Mesures
CMC	Calibration and Measurement Capability
DEOH	Directorate of Environmental and Occupational Health
EDB	Sri Lanka Export Development Board
EU	European Union
IAF	International Accreditation Forum
IDB	Industrial Development Board
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ISO	International Organization for Standardisation
ITI	Industrial Technology Institute
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MRA	Multilateral Recognition Agreement
MUSSD	Measurement Units, Standards and Services Department
NEDA	National Enterprise Development Authority
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NQI	National Quality Infrastructure
NQP	National Quality Policy
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OIML	Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale
QI	Quality Infrastructure
SI	International System of Units
SLAB	Sri Lanka Accreditation Board
SLSI	Sri Lanka Standards Institution
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TR	Technical Regulation
WTO	World Trade Organisation

FOREWORD

The Government of Sri Lanka has foreseen a bright future for the country's economic development and in this regard the Government has initiated a number of development programmes in all sectors of the economy. In this context, the need to improve the quality of services and products in all sectors is of paramount importance if every single Sri Lankan in the country is to enjoy the benefits.

The efforts, enthusiasm and genuine hard work of Sri Lankans towards improving quality will not materialise to the maximum in the absence of a proper National Quality Policy guideline with strategies, activities and the required infrastructure with a focused direction and leadership outlined. All these areas are broadly spelt out in the "National Quality Policy" document developed by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution after having extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders in the country representing National, Provincial and Local level stakeholders.

This National Quality Policy is designed to direct and motivate all stakeholders for upgrading the quality of life of every Sri Lankan. Realisation of the activities set out in this National Quality Policy document will no doubt lead to inclusive development and uplift Sri Lanka to be one of the leading countries in the world community.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 2016 NQP Development Process

The process of developing the first National Quality Policy and programme of action commenced in 1995 under the aegis of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) with the assistance of the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA). Active participation of the Public and Private sector was the hallmark of the development of the initial National Quality Policy (NQP). In 1998 the first Sri Lankan NQP was launched with the blessings of Her Excellency Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga then President. With the introduction of the National Quality Policy the Quality Infrastructure of the country has been developed to a great extent, paving the way for general improvements of the quality in most of the economic sectors as well as extensions of specific conformity assessment services and commencement of accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories.

However, with the ongoing developments taking place in the world and in Sri Lanka, the need to revise the existing National Quality Policy was recognized as such an updated policy provides the framework for all sectors of the economy to stay current and to improve the quality of products and services which is so essential for long-term success. The existing National Quality Policy has thus been revised taking into consideration the national needs in every sector of the country and to pass on the benefits to every citizen of Sri Lanka. To review the National Quality Policy, SLSI has broadened the scope of the consultation process by establishing a plenary committee, and five sub committees covering the following sectors;

- Health Sector ;
- Education Sector ;
- Road and Transportation Sector ;
- Trade and Commerce Sector ; and
- Sector representing regulatory bodies.

In 2014 an elaborate bottom-up stakeholder feedback process in the provinces and at national level was performed. Eight workshops at provincial level and one at national level were conducted paving the way to receive inputs in both National Languages. The

invited stakeholders consisted of public sector institutions as well as regulatory authorities at national, provincial and local levels, private sector representatives, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), researchers and academia as well as the consumer public. Through extensive public awareness campaigns involving national level newspapers in both Sinhala and Tamil, awareness among the public was created. Important feedback was collected during these events and after reviewing such inputs, most important and relevant areas were incorporated into the NQP. In other words, the new revision of the NQP was developed using a strong participatory approach, covering all regions and provinces of the country to give it greater relevance and legitimacy.

To support of the main committee's work, international expert assistance was obtained to review the whole document and to incorporate the best practices in the development of the NQP. The review process was carried out with the generous funding of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

1.2   General Context of the National Quality Policy

To achieve economic growth in the country, it is imperative that all sectors of the economy and the society are improved with the ultimate objective of upgrading socio-economic conditions of Sri Lankans. In this context, it is crucial that the country's efforts at national level be focused on continuously improving the quality of products and services as well as environmental and social conditions to be on par with the highest global standards with the ultimate objective of enhancing the quality of life of the people of Sri Lanka. Initiatives on quality improvement however, have to be undertaken taking care to preserve Sri Lankan culture and diversity which plays a vital role in our national identity.

In this context, the Government of Sri Lanka recognised the need to optimise the use of all available resources in order to accelerate the social and economic development of the country. Effective and efficient use of all resources to improve quality and productivity is a national priority which demands the total involvement of all sectors of the economy and all segments of society.

In order to compete successfully in developed markets, Sri Lankan industry, especially the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sector, have to overcome a formidable array of challenges. Over and above the logistics, management and financial issues, one of the

major stumbling blocks is the attainment of demonstrable product and/ or service quality demanded by Regulatory Authorities, as well as the major players in the markets. Hence, in order to fully exploit the possibilities of foreign markets, Sri Lankan industry needs to have access to an internationally recognised and supportive National Quality Infrastructure that can provide the required independent evidence of product compliance.

2. VISION AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE NQP

2.1 Introduction

A major objective of the NQP is to improve the international competitiveness of the country to enhance trade performance. In the realisation of this objective the Government of Sri Lanka will foster and promote an integrated approach to quality management involving all sectors of the economy and all segments of society in a socially responsible manner, whilst ensuring the health of Sri Lankan consumers, and protecting the environment against unsafe products and processes. The ultimate result would be improving the quality of life of the entire population in a sustained manner.

2.2 Vision

The Vision for the Sri Lankan National Quality Policy is as follows;

Provide leadership to foster a quality culture within the country by paving the way to uplift the quality of life of the nation, whilst maintaining a best in class National Quality Infrastructure.

2.3 Objectives

The Sri Lanka National Quality Policy has the following objectives:

- All state and private sector organisations / establishments shall become committed to quality as reflected in their policies, development plans (corporate plans), and strategies, making quality a national pre-occupation.
- Human resources development in quality management and quality related activities shall be planned and undertaken at national, provincial, local, and organisational level. Adequate provisions shall be made for human resources development in the field of quality.
- Entrepreneurial efforts at quality achievement and improvement shall be promoted, fostered, and fully supported.

- Research, and innovation in quality shall be given due recognition.
- Every effort shall be made to raise quality consciousness among all sectors of the economy, and the consumer public. Political leadership and decision makers of organisations shall provide the necessary leadership to foster a quality culture in the country at large and in the respective organisations.
- The National Quality Infrastructure shall be developed, and strengthened, to facilitate trade, enhance exports and accelerate regional economic development and to support the National Regulatory Framework with necessary Conformity Assessment services in the implementation of Technical Regulations.
- Quality initiatives for the protection of the environment shall receive due importance at all times with due consideration being given to green concepts, renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.
- Initiatives to uplift the quality and safety of healthcare services, and quality of the health of the community through customer focused, continuous improvement in healthcare delivery services shall be considered a national priority.

The above objectives shall be translated into an updated programme of action in which active participation, and cooperation of all sectors and stakeholders shall be sought to achieve effective results for the benefit of society and for economic prosperity.

2.4 Links with other National Policies

During the elaboration of this NQP considerable effort was made to identify other national policies, strategies and important documents which are closely linked with this policy document. In some cases very direct links, and in others rather indirect connections were found. The following list of documents is thus not exhaustive:

- National Strategic Investment Plan "Unstoppable Sri Lanka"
- General Economy, Industry, and Trade related Policies
- National Science and Technology Policy (2008)
- Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy 2011-2015 (2010)
- National Coordinating, and Monitoring Framework 2013-2015 for STI (2013)
- SME Policy Framework for Traditional Industries, and Small Enterprises Development Plan 2012-2016
- National Environmental Policy (2003)
- National Health Policy

- Education Policy
- National Drug Policy

3.   THE NATIONAL QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

3.1   Introduction

The National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) is the totality of the institutional framework (public and private) required to establish and implement, standardisation, metrology, conformity assessment services, (inspection, testing, and product- and system certification) and accreditation; necessary to provide acceptable evidence and assure that products and services meet defined requirements demanded by Regulatory Authorities (Technical Regulation) or the market place (contractually or inferred as reflected in standards).

NQI institutions should be able to provide an acceptable service to the suppliers of products and services, the consumers, as well as the Regulatory Authorities.

The National Quality Infrastructure (NQI), and its Technical Regulatory (TR) Framework are yet to be developed to their full potential, to effectively assure safety, and health of the population, especially in their role as consumers, to facilitate the provision of quality products and services, and to protect the environment.

3.2   Components of the NQI

Standards and Technical Regulations

Standards are formal documents developed and published by a recognised body, generally by consensus, containing the requirements that a product, process, or service shall comply with. Standards can be the basis of Technical Regulations (TR), contractual obligations, or market expectations. There are different types of Standards

- International standards
- Regional standards
- National standards
- Private standards

Compliance with standards is voluntary.

Technical Regulations (TR) are developed, and implemented, by the regulatory authorities, making standards mandatory, providing administrative provisions for their implementation.

Metrology

Metrology is the science of measurement.

Metrology can be subdivided into the following three categories:

- Scientific metrology
- Legal metrology
- Industrial metrology

To recognize metrology, it is imperative to maintain measurement traceability to national and international standards.

Conformity Assessment

Conformity assessment is the collective term for services that are necessary to provide evidence that a supplier, product, or service meets requirements as provided for in a Standard or TR. The following are generally considered to be conformity assessment services:

- Inspection
- Testing
- Certification (Systems and Products)
- Self-declaration
- Second party assessments

Accreditation

Accreditation, including peer assessment, is the activity which provides for independent attestation as to the competency of individuals or organisations providing conformity assessment services, thereby facilitating international recognition of claims of conformity.

3.3   Governance Structures of NQI Institutions

Leadership

The NQP shall be driven at the highest level by the Office of the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

National Quality Council

The Apex policy making body shall be the National Quality Council comprising professionals and academics of high calibre in key areas appointed by His Excellency the President. The Ministry in charge of the subjects of Science, Technology and Research, will serve as the Secretariat of this Council. Advisory Councils shall be appointed in different subject areas as decided by the Secretariat and shall consist of representatives of relevant Institutions, and eminent individuals.

The National Quality Council, formed through the relevant Ministries and various Institutions, shall be responsible for planning, organizing, coordinating, and promoting activities in the implementation of the NQP. The National Quality Council shall establish a system to communicate its policy directives to the relevant Ministries for implementation.

4.   THE TECHNICAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK
4.1   General

Regulatory Authorities are responsible for exercising controls related to Technical Regulations (TR) and Standards related to health, safety and the environment.

The relationship and co-operation between the NQI and the TR Framework shall be strengthened to cater to technological and quality needs and at the same time avoid unnecessary and costly barriers to trade, when providing the services. An effective and efficient NQI together with an efficient TR framework can promote the rule of law at the technology level and can help to meet the challenge of corruption through simplification of bureaucratic processes and enhance macro-economic stability. The establishment of an effective and efficient NQI contributes significantly to Good Governance.

TR is clearly defined in the World Trade Organisation (WTO)Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement and all WTO member states have to comply with these provisions. TR

contains technical requirements for the relevant products as well as administrative provisions for their implementation, which is mandatory by law. The technical requirements shall be based on national and international standards. The administrative provisions include the conformity assessment regime to be followed, identification of the regulatory Government agency and its responsibilities, and provision of sanctions that have to be applied in the case of non-conforming products.

4.2   Components of a Technical Regulation Framework

A Technical Regulation (TR)framework comprises a number of components that have to be appropriately defined and implemented at the national level, and brought down to provincial and local levels taking into consideration international best practices, local realities and customs.

Technical Requirements

The technical requirements provide the measures that a product has to comply with. They can be defined in one of the following ways:

- As stated in the text of the TR
- By reference to a specified standard
- By listing as "Deem to Satisfy" standards

The Technical Requirements shall be based on International, Regional, or National standards, and shall not become unnecessary barriers to trade.

Impact Assessment

The impact assessment shall determine whether the proposed TR will adequately deal with market failures (it is designed to impede), whether all of society will benefit if it is implemented, whether the technical requirements can be managed in the country, and what the total costs and benefits will be. It shall also consider the possibility of dealing with market failures in ways other than those stated in the TR. The following administrative elements shall be relevant for the TR framework:

- Conformity Assessment shall provide the evidence that a supplier, product or service, meets the technical requirements. Conformity Assessment Services are provided by

designated and technically competent organisations and include inspection, testing as well as system and product certification.

- The Regulatory Authority shall be charged with the responsibility to ensure that suppliers comply with the TR. In general the Regulatory Authority shall oversee pre-market product approval, market surveillance and the imposition of sanctions.

- Sanctions shall be imposed on suppliers that fail to comply with the TR requirements. Sanctions shall be applied at two levels: Administrative sanctions imposed by the Regulatory Authority, and Punitive sanctions imposed by the courts.

4.3 Responsibilities of the relevant Regulatory Authority

In order to ensure that any TR document is developed and issued properly, the Regulatory Authority shall have the following responsibilities;

- Follow the defined TR Framework in developing and implementing the TR
- Coordinate activities related to TR development and implementation amongst the other regulatory authorities and the NQI
- Ensure that all regulatory authorities consistently meet the requirements of the WTO-TBT Agreement, the WTO-SPS Agreement, the SAARC Trade Agreement, and all other relevant international conventions of which Sri Lanka is a signatory.
- Communication and guidance to strengthen the enforcement of Technical Regulations

The TR shall be reviewed systematically, harmonised, revised, and updated when necessary to meet current health, safety, environmental, trade, commerce, and industry requirements. State intervention and promulgation of technical regulations shall be based on risk and impact assessment and well identified national needs.

5. GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT FOR THE FUTURE NQI
5.1 General Approach

National, Provincial and Local institutions and other responsible organisations shall be aligned with the policy directives of the National Quality Council in order to improve and strengthen the Quality of products and services.

Role of National Quality Council

The task of the National Quality Council shall outline the vision and the policy and manage the general framework that will govern the premises and activities of the concerned parties and organisations. Furthermore, it is responsible for facilitating of the effective functioning of the basic elements of the NQI and for creating mechanisms to implement the same. The National Quality Council, in fulfilment of its role and commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka, will act in the best interest of the country and ensure that actions are jointly governed in a transparent manner with the coordination, and cooperation amongst the various sectors representing all regions of Sri Lanka. The Secretariat shall communicate the directives stipulated by the National Quality Council and action plans drawn up therein to the relevant line authorities as objectives and targets.

National, Provincial and Local authorities shall develop suitable strategies and action plans with objectives and targets to implement the policy directives in consultation with the relevant stakeholders where necessary.

A monitoring system shall be established by the national Quality Council to review the compliance of strategies and work plans with action plans and directives and to measure the level of achievement of the NQP objectives. A Reporting mechanism shall be established to communicate the output and outcome of the action plan to the National Quality Council.

Besides the Regulatory Authorities, four main institutions which constitutes the NQI shall execute the provisions of the NQP under the guidance of the National Quality Council to realise its primary objectives, namely the protection of society and the environment and to upgrade the quality of products and services.

The National Quality Council shall liaise with national and international professional associations and organizations promoting quality and productivity in the furtherance of its objectives.

More specifically, the National Quality Council shall guide, promote and support the following activities relating to quality on a nationwide scale:

- Education and training in quality
- Formulation of a Quality Improvement Research Group for conducting researches and surveys on the levels of application of the concepts and practices of quality

such as Total Quality Management (TQM), Quality Councils, Quality Improvement Teams (QITs) and Quality Circles (QCs) among industry and business and for discovering new and innovative quality tools and techniques.

5.2 Standards and Technical Regulations

The Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) shall be responsible for standardisation activities. The Primary responsibility of the SLSI is to establish National Standards for Products, Processes, and Systems required by all sectors of the economy and dissemination of information on international standards. Moreover, the Institution can also function as a Conformity Assessment body by developing mechanisms to address issues pertaining to conflict of interest.

5.3   Metrology

Measurement Units Standards and Services Department (MUSSD) shall be responsible for the national measurement systems traceable to SI units. The primary responsibility of MUSSD shall be the maintenance of National measurement standards traceable to International standards, and dissemination of measurement systems in trade, commerce, and industry, as well as in technical and scientific work. Special focus shall be on strengthening chemical calibration laboratories and the respective inter-laboratory comparisons.

5.4   Accreditation

The Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (SLAB) shall be responsible for the accreditation of:

a) Testing laboratories, including medical testing laboratories.
b) Calibration and metrology laboratories.
c) Product and systems certification bodies.
d) Inspection bodies and agencies.
e) Bodies operating certification of personnel.
f) Training programmes on quality.

5.5   Conformity Assessment

Existing Organisations for providing Conformity Assessment (CA) services (inspection, testing, and certification), metrology and calibration services shall be strengthened. Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) shall be encouraged, and driven to gain accreditation to provide reliable and globally accepted CA services at affordable cost. Regulatory Authorities shall be encouraged to use accredited CA Services in the implementation, and management of their regulatory responsibilities.

5.6 Education, Training and Human Resource Development

Existing organisations for providing education, training, promotion, and technological services related to quality and productivity shall be strengthened and new organisations shall be established and developed where necessary, focusing on the special needs of development of human resources at the regional level.

Principles and techniques of quality and productivity shall be introduced into the school education system inclusive of special education at the early childhood, primary and secondary education levels.

Standardisation and Quality Management shall be introduced into the entirety of the Tertiary education system comprising universities, technical colleges, vocational, and professional education and training institutions and other relevant educational establishments.

Standardisation and Quality Management shall be introduced into all formal and non-formal education programmes at the national, provincial and local levels. Employees at all levels in industry, business, and commerce shall require to be continually educated and trained on Quality and Productivity Improvement.

5.7 Information Network

It is a prerequisite to have and maintain efficient electronic communication for a modern NQI and TR environment that connects all the NQI Institutions to the rest of the world. While there are many entities that should be part of such a network, including the various organisations of the NQI such as the SLSI, SLAB, MUSSD, and others, the following are additionally important.

National TBT and SPS Enquiry Point

The information network shall be spearheaded by the SLSI as the TBT Enquiry Point. The Directorate of Environmental and Occupational Health (DEOH) of the Ministry of Health as well as the National Plant Quarantine Service and Animal Production of Sri Lanka shall function as the two SPS Enquiry Points, but these should include all the relevant stakeholders. In the long run, the two SPS Enquiry Points should be merged into one to increase efficiency. The Sri Lankan Authorities are committed to provide the necessary resources to enable the SLSI and the DEOH to play a meaningful role in:

- Providing information on standards, TR, as well as and the conformity assessment and administrative provisions as required by the WTO, TBT, and WTO SPS Agreements.
- Reviewing TR notifications of the WTO on a continuous basis so as to inform the public and private sector stakeholders in Sri Lanka on trends that will impact on their business and on the country.
- Compiling relevant information to be utilised by the Sri Lankan representatives in the WTO to protect the interests of Sri Lanka.

5.8 Fostering the National Quality Movement

The development of a quality culture in all sectors of the economy shall be encouraged and stimulated. Incorporation of quality and productivity training and the related discipline, as an essential component of human resources development shall be encouraged at all levels.

A National Quality Week shall be arranged to coincide with the World Standards Day observed on 14 October of every year. Following that the world quality month (November) as well as the World Metrology Day (May 20th), World Accreditation Day (June 9th) and World Consumers Day (March 15th) shall be promoted on a grand scale in the country.

All Organisations in the State and Private Sector including Ministries and Departments, shall be encouraged, and guided to adopt measurable quality and performance indicators, and implement mechanisms to assure the achievement of quality goals and targets. Quality assurance responsibilities shall be assigned to a member of the senior management in every Organisation/Department/Ministry at the National, Provincial and Local Levels.

The Sri Lanka Government shall facilitate and support public and private sector organisations to develop and implement quality management practices to meet national and international standards. The adoption of Quality Management practices in processing and manufacturing and in the provision of services shall lead to improvements in efficiency, productivity, and quality.

6. ROLES AND NEEDS OF OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

6.1 Introduction

One of the key elements in the implementation of the NQP and quality improvement initiatives shall be the creation of quality consciousness and the right attitude to quality amongst all levels of stakeholders in the society. Thus, to support the objectives of the NQP, it is necessary to undertake well directed programmes to raise quality consciousness amongst both suppliers and consumers and to inculcate a quality culture among the public and throughout the society.

6.2 The Private Sector

The private sector, represented by the National, Regional and District Chambers, Sector Associations and Trade Unions have a very prominent role to play in the implementation of the NQP and their participation in the development of the NQI is absolutely essential. In order to achieve maximum benefits from the NQI, the private sector in cooperation with other Institutions shall;

- Improve the quality of its products and services and accelerate the introduction of international practices in the field of quality, thus contributing to the competitiveness of Sri Lankan products and services.
- Participate actively in representative structures and technical committees, dealing with standards, accreditation metrology and related activities.
- Invest in the development of a quality infrastructure, thereby benefiting from the improved market opportunities that result from the implementation of the NQP.
- Develop human resources by educating and training the people involved in improving the quality of products and services.
- Participate in financing activities that support quality.

- Participate in, and promote quality dissemination activities such as workshops, conferences and seminars and the publication of information in journals, magazines and other suitable means of communication.
- Participate in, and promote national quality events, including National Quality Awards.
- Fund quality related activities in companies and encourage and recognise, personnel through appropriate incentives.
- Specifically address sectors in which female entrepreneurs are especially active in providing quality infrastructure services.
- Establish Information Centres in all the Chambers to provide information to SMEs and to increase awareness regarding certification.
- Organise regular programmes and events through chambers' membership systems.

6.3   Consumers

Consumers are the other important market players and most often the more vulnerable segment. For this reason it is important to strengthen Government and Civil Society to protect consumers and provide them a voice in quality matters. Capacities of consumer organisations shall be strengthened and end user product testing introduced. Representatives of consumer organisations shall be encouraged to actively participate in various forums, e. g. Technical Committees in standardisation and representation in the ISO COPOLCO Committee on Consumer Policy to further strengthen development of consumer confidence and Sri Lankan consumer representation in standardisation at the International level.

6.4   Non-governmental Organisations

Initiatives by Government approved NGOs in quality related education and training shall be encouraged.

Within the implementation process of the National Quality Policy, NGOs shall be encouraged to take the following initiatives in coordination with relevant partners:

- Participate in the dissemination of quality related information.
- Implement activities that promote the improvement of quality and the environment.

- Promote the representation of relevant bodies in the Technical Committees in the fields of standardisation, metrology, accreditation, and quality.
- Propose suggestions for NQP improvement, and better ways to implement the NQP.

6.5 Media

Mass media shall be encouraged, and involved, to highlight quality and productivity activities so as to create a national impact. All state and private electronic and print media shall be utilised to inculcate a quality culture. The media shall be encouraged to become actively involved in the dissemination of information related to Standardisation and Quality, and the improvement of Productivity, especially directed towards the general public as well as school children and academia, thereby contributing to the multiplier effect and national impact.

6.6 Research and Academia

Research and Academia play an important role among the NQI institutions. Universities and Research Institutions can deliver valuable methods and results that shall be utilised in the further development of quality related research and services, as well as in training on Quality at the various educational levels.

7. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL QI ORGANISATIONS

Standards, Metrology, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment develop rapidly at the International level. It is therefore vital that NQI institutions in Sri Lanka are actively involved in the appropriate International Forums, so that Sri Lankan authorities and industry remains firmly in touch with developments at the Regional and International levels. In this context, Quality Infrastructure development related Sri Lankan officials and technical officers need to take part in appropriate International Forums on a frequent basis to represent Sri Lankan Authorities and Institutions and gain up-to-date international know-how to strengthen the NQI.

All the stakeholders shall cooperate to create conditions favourable for active participation in Regional and International Organisations related to the various functions of the NQI.

Sri Lanka is committed to strengthen the affiliation of national institutions with International organisations, and support the participation of representatives of the Sri Lankan public and private sectors in the relevant general assemblies and especially Technical Committees, which have strategic relevance to Sri Lanka. The national institutions shall develop and pursue a strategy for such involvement that takes into consideration the needs of the country as a whole for which the relevant funds shall be provided by the Government for participation.

8.   FINANCING THE NQI AND THE TR FRAMEWORK

It is of vital importance to make public and private financial resources available for the implementation of the NQP. The Government of Sri Lanka shall be responsible for financing the development, upgrading, and restructuring of the existing NQI institutions within the public sector. Necessary leadership and adequate resources shall be provided to take corrective and proactive measures for deviations and failures found in action plans. In particular, the Government shall retain full responsibility for the funding of:

- The development and publication of national standards by the SLSI as well as the maintenance of a Standards Information Centre. All publications and information shall be made available in all three languages.

- The establishment and maintenance of the national measurement standards by the MUSSD.

- The establishment and maintenance of a national calibration service until it has developed to the point where its users will be able to fund it.

- The establishment of legal metrology services in so far as they cannot be funded through the fees and levies paid by the users of measuring equipment falling within the scope of legal metrology legislation.

- The establishment and maintenance of a fully fledged Sri Lanka Accreditation Board.

- The establishment and maintenance of the membership of the SLSI, SLAB, MUSSD, the Legal Metrology Department and other relevant institutions in International and Regional organisations such as the ISO, IEC, BIPM, OIML, CAC, IAF, ILAC, etc. that are relevant to the proper functioning of NQI activities, with the support of government funds.

- SLSI engagement in the ISO Developing Country Matters Forum (DEVCO), and also in the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) work as these institutions work to enhance and enrich the Quality Infrastructure.

- The establishment of proper enforcement mechanisms (e. g. market surveillance operations) to ensure that TR are complied with. Funding for the testing and certification of products falling within the scope of TR remains the responsibility of the suppliers.