



General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 December 2017

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Thirty-seventh session

26 February–23 March 2018

Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Sri Lanka

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

GE.17-23489(E)



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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-eighth session from 6 to 17 November 2017. The review of Sri Lanka was held at the 16th meeting, on 15 November 2017. The delegation of Sri Lanka was headed by the Deputy Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs, Harsha de Silva. At its 18th meeting, held on 17 November 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Sri Lanka.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Sri Lanka: Burundi, the Republic of Korea and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.¹

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Sri Lanka:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/LKA/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/LKA/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/LKA/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Estonia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Uruguay was transmitted to Sri Lanka through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. Sri Lanka emphasized that it was participating in the review against the backdrop of a renewed and transformed local setting, led by its people at two historic elections. The victory of President Maithripala Sirisena at the 8 January 2015 presidential election and the uniting of the two main political parties under the National Unity Government following the parliamentary elections of August 2015 had enabled a fundamental shift in the country's political culture towards matters pertaining to human rights, greater openness, and engagement locally with its own citizens, with the United Nations and with the international community. Therefore, much of the progress had been achieved during a brief period, of roughly the past 2 years and 10 months.

6. With regard to the preparation of the national report for the universal periodic review, Sri Lanka highlighted the extensive and inclusive consultation process, which had involved ministries and departments, civil society representatives, and experts in different fields, and had involved two stages — the development of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the preparation of the draft national report.

¹ At the 25th meeting of the Human Rights Council, held on 22 September 2017 during the thirty-sixth session, under agenda item 6 entitled "Universal periodic review", the President of the Council asked the Council to consider the agreement reached by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Peru, Sri Lanka and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as outlined in a letter from the Plurinational State of Bolivia dated 20 September 2017, that the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela would exchange places in their respective troikas. The Council approved the change in the composition of the troikas of Peru and Sri Lanka, which had initially been selected at the organizational meeting of the Council, held on 13 February 2017.

7. The delegation expressed the Government's commitment to a process of truth-seeking, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. Sri Lanka had worked with all parties concerned to adopt by consensus Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, which it had co-sponsored. The resolution envisaged the setting up of a permanent office on missing persons, a truth-seeking commission, a judicial mechanism with a special counsel, and a reparations office. Sri Lanka had also worked with the Council members to have the timeline for resolution 30/1 extended by two years, through the adoption by consensus of resolution 34/1 in March 2017. The delegation also stressed that investigations into allegations pertaining to human rights and humanitarian law violations during the conflict would not unfairly target or punish security forces specifically, but would be carried out through judicial processes, respecting due process.

8. Sri Lanka noted that it had intensified its engagement and cooperation both with special procedures and with treaty bodies. Since the last universal periodic review, Sri Lanka had participated in six reviews by treaty bodies, and the review by the Committee on the Rights of the Child was scheduled for January 2018. In December 2015, Sri Lanka had extended a standing invitation to all thematic special procedures. Eight thematic special procedure mandate holders and working groups had visited Sri Lanka since the last universal periodic review, with six of them being received since January 2015. Moreover, members of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention were visiting from 4 to 15 December 2017, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression was visiting early in 2018. The delegation noted that the previous United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had visited Sri Lanka in 2013 and the current High Commissioner had visited in February 2016, and that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had visited in September 2016.

9. During the period under review, Sri Lanka had become a State party to a number of international instruments. On 14 November 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers had approved the country's accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The delegation reported that the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka would be appointed as the national preventive mechanism. Sri Lanka had formally withdrawn its reservation to article 29 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families, and had withdrawn all derogations notified under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by November 2015. A declaration had been made under article 22 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment recognizing the competence of the Committee against Torture to receive individual communications.

10. Sri Lanka highlighted the enactment of the nineteenth amendment to the Constitution, in May 2015. That amendment had reduced the powers of the Executive President, strengthened the independence of key institutions with the objective of depoliticizing the public service, reduced the President's term of office, restored the two-term limit of the executive presidency, reduced Parliament's term and curtailed the President's power to dissolve Parliament, among other things. The independence of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka had also been strengthened following the enactment of the nineteenth amendment.

11. Sri Lanka reported the enactment by Parliament of the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act, in February 2015, which provided for the payment of compensation to victims of crime and established a special fund for that purpose, and also of the Right to Information Act, which had come into operation on 3 February 2017.

12. Sri Lanka noted the regulations and measures for the eradication of child labour, including through a Special Presidential Task Force for the Protection of Children under the direct purview of the President. In June 2016, the President had signed a pledge on zero tolerance of child labour.

13. Sri Lanka noted that it had made, and continued to make, efforts to provide internally displaced persons with durable solutions. The Cabinet of Ministers had approved the National Policy on Durable Solutions for Conflict-Affected Displacement, in August 2016.

14. Sri Lanka highlighted the “Blue-Green Budget: the Launch of Enterprise Sri Lanka”, for 2018, which had been prepared on the basis of the Sustainable Development Goals. It noted that the Goals had been incorporated into government policies and programmes, including through the Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Act.

15. As for language and cultural rights, Sri Lanka reported that in March 2015 the Government had issued a circular to all government institutions in which it was stated that no prohibition existed on the national anthem being sung in the Tamil language, and on 4 February 2016 the national anthem was sung in both official languages, at the National Independence Day celebrations.

16. Sri Lanka noted that the initial design and contours of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Reparations Office had been based on the inputs received through nationwide consultations carried out by a consultation task force comprised of 11 eminent civil society members. Sri Lanka had started the process of constitutional reform as a measure for guaranteeing non-recurrence of the conflict, on the basis of the framework resolution adopted in March 2017. The consultations in that regard were ongoing.

17. The Office on Missing Persons, which had become operational on 15 September 2017, was the first of the reconciliation mechanisms to be set up, with SL Rs 1.4 billion proposed to be allocated for it in the budget for 2018. Sri Lanka noted that having a section of the national budget expressly dedicated to reconciliation was unprecedented.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 88 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. France welcomed the commitment to implement Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 and encouraged Sri Lanka to accelerate the reconciliation and transitional justice process and criminalize enforced disappearances.

20. Georgia noted with satisfaction the National Human Rights Action Plan and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, urging Sri Lanka to implement it effectively.

21. Germany welcomed the establishment of the Office on Missing Persons and encouraged Sri Lanka to fulfil its commitments under Council resolution 30/1.

22. Ghana commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the commitments by Sri Lanka to resolving complex post-conflict challenges.

23. Guatemala expressed concern over existing legislative provisions discriminating against women and made recommendations.

24. Haiti welcomed steps to demilitarize parts of the island, to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and to strengthen the independence of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.

25. The Holy See appreciated accomplishments in poverty eradication, prevention of violence and resolving post-conflict challenges, and encouraged Sri Lanka to continue the reconciliation and peace process.

26. Honduras encouraged Sri Lanka to implement recommendations of the review in its new National Human Rights Action Plan.

27. India noted progress on the resettlement of internally displaced persons, the rehabilitation of ex-combatants, demining and reconstruction activities, and urged Sri Lanka to resolve residual resettlement and rehabilitation issues.

28. Indonesia applauded the National Human Rights Action Plan, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act, and the Peacebuilding Priority Plan.

29. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act, and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its incorporation into domestic law.
30. Iraq applauded the accession by Sri Lanka to the majority of human rights instruments, the nineteenth amendment to the Constitution and the return of exiled journalists since 2015.
31. Ireland welcomed the ratification of human rights treaties, and the co-sponsorship by Sri Lanka of Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, but was concerned about intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders.
32. Italy commended Sri Lanka for ratifying a number of international instruments, for the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021 and for incorporating previous universal periodic review recommendations during the implementation of the previous plan.
33. Japan commended the efforts towards national reconciliation, the development of the legal system, the protection and promotion of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, and poverty alleviation initiatives.
34. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021, and commended Sri Lanka for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and enhancing the right to education.
35. Latvia appreciated the standing invitation to special procedures, but regretted that not all requests had been accepted. It acknowledged the legislative reforms that Sri Lanka had made to promote gender equality.
36. Libya welcomed the voluntary commitment of Sri Lanka to protect and promote human rights. It paid tribute to the Government for declaring 2017 as a poverty alleviation year.
37. Madagascar commended Sri Lanka for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and for its 2015–2019 strategic plan against human trafficking.
38. Sri Lanka noted that it condemned any and all acts of torture, and was committed to ensuring that allegations of torture would be investigated and prosecuted to the full extent of the law. In particular, it noted the strengthening of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka by ensuring its access to places where there might be complaints of torture, the issuance of orders to all police and security officials forbidding torture of any kind, the provision of access for human rights organizations to places where allegations of torture had been reported, the inclusion of a chapter on the prevention of torture in the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021, the zero-tolerance policy on torture at the highest levels of the Government, and the establishment of the Committee on Prevention of Torture.
39. Sri Lanka emphasized that it maintained zero tolerance for hate speech and religious violence, and that the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021 contained a firm commitment to enforce section 3 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Act, which criminalized hate speech. It noted that in June 2017 a circular had been issued instructing stern action against hate speech, requiring all police officers to take immediate action whenever hate speech was reported or occurred. It noted that several programmes for inter-community and interreligious dialogue had been launched by various relevant ministries.
40. Malaysia welcomed the progress made in combating gender-based violence and looked forward to full implementation of the National Action Plan on Sexual and Gender-based Violence.
41. Maldives welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021, the new Bill of Rights and the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act.
42. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the adoption of the Right to Information Act, of 2016.

43. Montenegro noted the constitutional reform and encouraged the adoption of a new Bill of Rights. Montenegro urged investigations into cases of unlawful detention, torture and sexual violence by security forces.
44. Morocco welcomed the ratification of international treaties, the strengthened independence of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021, and efforts concerning the right to health.
45. Myanmar welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021, the National Action Plan on Sexual and Gender-based Violence, and the country's engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.
46. Namibia commended the constitutional reforms, the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021 and the national plan to end sexual and gender-based violence.
47. Nepal welcomed the constitutional reforms, the strengthened Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, the National Human Rights Action Plan and reconciliation efforts. Nepal encouraged Sri Lanka to abolish the death penalty.
48. The Netherlands welcomed progress regarding freedom of expression and the media, and the 25 per cent quota for women in local elections. It noted with concern the slow progress in the constitutional reform and transitional justice process.
49. New Zealand welcomed the constructive approach of Sri Lanka to addressing post-conflict reconciliation issues.
50. Nicaragua welcomed the National Policy on Reconciliation, the Office on Missing Persons and the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021.
51. Norway noted steps towards mainstreaming non-discrimination and equality in the legal framework, and provisions for increasing women's representation on local councils.
52. Pakistan welcomed the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act, of 2015, efforts concerning poverty alleviation, the investment in health services, and progress on women and children's rights.
53. Peru encouraged Sri Lanka to consolidate the independence of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and praised efforts related to the right to education.
54. The Philippines noted positively the strengthening of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, the National Human Rights Action Plan, and the introduction of human rights in the curriculum of secondary schools.
55. Poland commended efforts to protect the rights of the child and to introduce human rights education. It expressed concern about the insufficient protection of rights of religious minorities.
56. Portugal made recommendations.
57. Qatar commended the National Human Rights Action Plan and the strategic plan on trafficking in human beings.
58. The Republic of Korea welcomed the constitutional amendment that had enabled the setting up of independent commissions, including the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. It commended the establishment of the Office on Missing Persons.
59. The Russian Federation welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan, measures on reconciliation, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the improvement of legislation to protect crime victims and to guarantee freedom of expression.
60. Sri Lanka noted that the Constitutional Council was in the process of nominating to the President seven commissioners for the Office on Missing Persons, for appointment. The Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms had already been working with the International Committee of the Red Cross to obtain expertise related to the setting up of the Office. The Government had drafted bills for a reparations office and a truth and reconciliation commission.

61. Saudi Arabia noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It welcomed the constitutional amendment strengthening the independence of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.
62. Senegal noted positively the strengthening of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka following the nineteenth amendment to the Constitution, and the National Human Rights Action Plan.
63. Serbia commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It encouraged Sri Lanka to continue to fight discrimination on all grounds, providing equality between men and women and securing protection of all vulnerable groups.
64. Sierra Leone applauded the National Human Rights Action Plan and the Peacebuilding Priority Plan, and encouraged Sri Lanka to implement its strategic plan on human trafficking and to continue combating child marriage.
65. Singapore noted the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2017–2021 and progress made in alleviating poverty since the last review.
66. Slovakia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was concerned at the recognition of the death penalty in criminal legislation and at the use of torture during criminal investigations.
67. Slovenia noted undertakings to introduce a new constitution and encouraged Sri Lanka to fulfil commitments on transitional justice. It expressed concern about the persistence of sociocultural values condoning domestic and gender-based violence.
68. South Africa welcomed the progress made and the inclusion of human rights education in the training of law enforcement officers, the armed forces and prison officers.
69. Spain acknowledged the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
70. The State of Palestine commended the Government's efforts for reconciliation and to prevent acts of violence and intimidation against human rights defenders and journalists.
71. The Sudan noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan. It commended Sri Lanka for its standing invitation to special procedures and ensuring some of their visits.
72. Sweden thanked Sri Lanka for its report and presentation.
73. Switzerland welcomed the reforms, in particular on freedoms of expression, assembly, movement and circulation, as well as initiatives in the governance of the security sector.
74. Thailand welcomed progress in promoting reconciliation, transitional justice and human rights and commended the National Action Plan for Human Rights.
75. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia welcomed commitments to reconciliation and accountability for past abuses, while expressing concern that protests in the North had indicated frustration at the lack of progress.
76. Timor-Leste appreciated the plan on human trafficking and the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act. It welcomed legislation aimed at increasing the transparency and independence of institutions.
77. Tunisia welcomed measures on reconciliation and transitional justice, and the ratification, inter alia, of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
78. The United Arab Emirates appreciated the efforts to build sustainable economic development and social justice and to consolidate the rule of law and good governance.

79. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland encouraged Sri Lanka to continue its work on reconciliation and to adopt an action plan to implement its Human Rights Council resolution commitments.

80. The United States welcomed progress on returning occupied lands and operationalizing the Office on Missing Persons. It expressed concern at reports of abuses by the security forces and increased violence against religious minorities.

81. Sri Lanka noted the Policy Framework and all-encompassing National Plan of Action on Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016–2020. It also noted a new referral system with a multisectoral approach, introduced in six districts, to facilitate effective response to, and the prevention of, incidents of sexual and gender-based violence; regular educational and awareness-raising programmes in 356 divisional secretariats; and psychosocial support for victims in 321 divisional secretariats. The National Committee on Women received complaints on gender-based violence through its complaint centre and 1938 helpline, and counselling centres had been established in 40 major hospitals. Six shelters had been established in different locations, for survivors of such violence, and two more shelters were expected to be established during 2017.

82. Sri Lanka noted that the general right to equality and non-discrimination, reflected in the Constitution, implicitly included non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, and that the present constitutional reform process included consideration of an explicit guarantee of non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. It referred to the pronouncement by the Supreme Court that imposing custodial sentences would be inappropriate in cases where the impugned acts were between consenting adults.

83. Sri Lanka noted that draft legislation had been prepared to give effect to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which it had ratified in 2016. It had also ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, in September 2016, and the Cabinet of Ministers had approved the drafting of a bill on sign language. The Ministry of Public Administration had instructed all ministries, departments and corporations that 3 per cent of vacancies in the public service and public corporations were to be filled by persons with disabilities with the requisite qualifications. Sri Lanka also stressed that several welfare programmes had been established to provide support to persons with disabilities, including financial assistance to low-income families with persons with disabilities, and public officials had been trained on sign language, Braille methodology, mobility and orientation, in order to enable them to provide a better service. Sri Lanka emphasized that SL Rs 2.7 billion had been proposed under the 2018 budget to construct homes for differently abled women in the North and the East.

84. Sri Lanka had declared 2017 as the year of alleviating poverty, and had launched a nationwide people's movement for poverty alleviation, called "Gramashakthi". It noted that a ministerial committee and an experts' committee had been appointed to formulate the National Sustainable Development Vision 2030, which outlined strategies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The first draft report of the experts' committee had been presented to the President in November 2017.

85. Sri Lanka stated that the committee appointed to review the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code had commenced discussions on the matter of criminalizing marital rape, which was presently recognized only in respect of non-consensual sexual relations during a judicial separation of the spouses.

86. Uruguay highlighted the abolition of the practice of executions by judicial order, and noted that constitutional reform proposals extended non-discrimination grounds to disability and to sexual orientation and gender identity.

87. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the ratification of human rights treaties, and initiatives on free and equal access to education and achieving universal vaccination coverage.

88. Viet Nam welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021, and initiatives that Sri Lanka had undertaken, including on women's and children's rights,

language rights, human rights education, the reintegration of ex-combatants and alleviation of poverty.

89. Afghanistan commended the acts on torture and on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and encouraged Sri Lanka to accelerate the process of providing domestic legal guarantees in relation to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

90. Algeria welcomed the commitment to national reconciliation, the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the ratification of a number of human rights instruments.

91. Argentina noted measures to provide accountability for the crimes committed during the armed conflict. It welcomed the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

92. Canada acknowledged the strengthening of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, the institutionalization of the Office on Missing Persons and cooperation with the United Nations. It noted that much work remained on accountability, transitional justice and reconciliation.

93. Armenia noted positively the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was concerned about laws discriminating against women, and encouraged their review.

94. Australia welcomed improvements in freedom of expression, and in the quota for women in local government elections. It noted discriminatory laws against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and attacks on religious minorities.

95. Austria welcomed the recent ratification of human rights treaties. It was concerned about reports of human rights violations under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

96. Azerbaijan noted positively the National Human Rights Action Plan, with its focus on the rights of women, internally displaced persons, refugees, migrants, persons with disabilities and others.

97. Bahrain praised the efforts made by Sri Lanka since 2015 to prioritize the widening of democratic space, and truth and reconciliation, as well as the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

98. Bangladesh commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of a number of laws on freedom of expression and speech, and of the media. It praised the introduction of “think equal” as a subject in pilot schools.

99. Belarus noted positively the constitutional amendments and the strengthened national human rights institutions. It welcomed efforts to develop policies on reconciliation and the establishment of institutions to implement those policies.

100. Belgium welcomed the Office on Missing Persons. It was concerned about recent developments in the fight against impunity and in enforcing freedom of religion and women’s rights.

101. Bhutan congratulated Sri Lanka on the enactment of the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act, of 2015, and the National Human Rights Action Plan, among others.

102. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the plan for the provinces aimed at restoring roads, irrigation channels, schools and houses, and all the initiatives in favour of small-scale farmers.

103. Brazil reaffirmed its support for the ongoing reconciliation process and encouraged Sri Lanka to make additional efforts to promote truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

104. Brunei Darussalam noted positively that the alleviation of poverty was a high priority of Sri Lanka and welcomed the high-level committee in that regard. It also noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
105. Burundi welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021 and congratulated Sri Lanka on the measures aimed at ensuring education for all.
106. China commended Sri Lanka for the measures taken on education and health, as well as to combat violence against women and trafficking of persons.
107. Côte d’Ivoire commended Sri Lanka for the progress made towards better relations with the international community and the Human Rights Council, and encouraged Sri Lanka to continue such efforts.
108. Cuba noted the ratification of human rights treaties, and the priority given to the alleviation of poverty in the country’s economic policy.
109. Denmark noted the opening of the Office on Missing Persons and highlighted the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights for women and girls.
110. Ecuador acknowledged the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in February 2016, and encouraged Sri Lanka to adapt its national legislation to the Convention.
111. Egypt acknowledged all the accomplishments in the field of human rights, including the establishment of a new coalition government following the presidential and parliamentary elections.
112. Estonia welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021 and commended Sri Lanka for its efforts to meet its commitments under Human Rights Council resolutions 30/1 and 34/1.
113. Ethiopia noted with appreciation the efforts and commitment to eradicate poverty by 2030 and the establishment of different institutions to improve human rights.
114. Finland welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021 and the Policy Framework and National Plan of Action on Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016–2020. It encouraged Sri Lanka to take steps to fulfil its commitments to transitional justice in line with Human Rights Council resolution 30/1.
115. Sri Lanka noted the recommendations by many delegations with regard to the death penalty and stated that it was abolitionist in practice and that no one had been put to death in the past 40 years. Sri Lanka recognized that all rights were interconnected and indivisible, and expressed its commitment to promoting all rights for all citizens and realizing its Vision 2025.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

116. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Sri Lanka and enjoy the support of Sri Lanka:**

- 116.1 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);**
- 116.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Poland) (Uruguay) (Denmark);**
- 116.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Senegal);**
- 116.4 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (New Zealand);**

- 116.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as soon as possible (Ghana);**
- 116.6 **Upon ratification, implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 116.7 **Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Afghanistan);**
- 116.8 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Côte d’Ivoire);**
- 116.9 **Ratify swiftly the Optional Protocols to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as well as to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Guatemala);**
- 116.10 **Ensure safeguards against arbitrary arrest and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Portugal);**
- 116.11 **Continue to strengthen its cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms (Myanmar);**
- 116.12 **Respond positively to the pending visit requests by the special procedures mandate holders (Latvia);**
- 116.13 **Continue the process of constitutional reforms, including consideration of a new Bill of Rights that will, amongst others, guarantee the right to life and the right to non-discrimination on any ground (South Africa);²**
- 116.14 **Continue the constitutional reform to create a more comprehensive framework for the promotion and protection of human rights (Viet Nam);**
- 116.15 **Continue the Constitutional reforms to guarantee the fundamental rights of the entire population, and move forward in the implementation of the reforms as planned in the National Human Rights Plan (Mexico);**
- 116.16 **Ensure adequate funding and manpower for the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (Philippines);**
- 116.17 **Ensure the full alignment of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka in accordance with the Paris Principles (Afghanistan);**
- 116.18 **Make further efforts to ensure the implementation of its National Human Rights Action Plan (Myanmar);**
- 116.19 **Continue its efforts for the passing of the National Human Rights Action Plan and afterwards its implementation (Pakistan);**
- 116.20 **Work with the development partners to facilitate the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (Philippines);**
- 116.21 **Ensure that adequate resources are invested for the effective implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021, in particular at the provincial level (Singapore);**

² The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Hasten the process of constitutional reforms, including consideration of a new Bill of Rights that will, amongst others, guarantee the right to life and the right to non-discrimination on any ground (South Africa)”.

- 116.22 Continue its efforts to implement the national human rights action plan (Sudan);
- 116.23 Work to ensure that all government agencies and relevant stakeholders are fully aware of the National Action Plan for human rights and effectively implement it for the benefit of all people, especially the most vulnerable groups in the society (Thailand);
- 116.24 Continue strengthening the integration of human rights in its public policies by strengthening the government agencies at all levels for the implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2017–2021 (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 116.25 Continue its close cooperation with the United Nations bodies and mechanisms to implement the National Human Rights Action Plan (Azerbaijan);
- 116.26 Implement the National Action Plan on Human Rights for 2017–2021 (Cuba);
- 116.27 Ensure the allocation of necessary resources in order to implement measures planned under the National Human Rights Action Plan (Belarus);
- 116.28 Scale up awareness-raising of new policies and legislation at the grass-roots level (Ethiopia);
- 116.29 Pursue its initiative to include the subject of “human rights” in its education curriculum, as it would facilitate national reconciliation by building trust and confidence in the society (India);
- 116.30 Extend human rights education to all sectors of the country (Burundi);
- 116.31 Continue the efforts to address any discriminatory laws and practices in line with Sri Lanka’s accepted international obligations (Ethiopia);
- 116.32 Do more to combat all forms of discrimination, with a focus on vulnerable groups (Senegal);
- 116.33 Continue efforts to protect and promote the rights of the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society (Nepal);
- 116.34 Strengthen measures to promote the right to equality and non-discrimination against any citizen and/or community, whatever their origin, age and identity (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 116.35 Take further steps to eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence against minority communities, including women and girls, and implement the recent recommendations in this regard from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (New Zealand);
- 116.36 Adopt measures to strengthen the legal framework with the aim of eliminating all forms of discrimination against minority groups in society, based on ethnicity, gender, caste or any other ground (Uruguay);
- 116.37 Prevent and combat all kind of discrimination, in particular those on the grounds of ethnicity and sexual orientation (Italy);
- 116.38 Ensure respect for the rights and fundamental freedoms of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, by investigating and sanctioning acts of discrimination and violence against such persons (Argentina);
- 116.39 Adopt measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination in health-care settings, including in the context of HIV/AIDS, while paying particular attention to the specific needs of key populations, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Portugal);

- 116.40 **Adopt comprehensive legislation on hate speech and incitement to hatred (Sierra Leone);**
- 116.41 **Continue the efforts to combat hate speech (Tunisia);**
- 116.42 **Take concrete measures aimed at preventing and punishing the perpetrators of hate speech and incitement of violent attacks against ethnic and religious minorities (Namibia);**
- 116.43 **Investigate all attacks and hate speech against members of religious minorities, prosecute perpetrators and take steps to prevent reoccurrence (Australia);**
- 116.44 **Address urgently the intensive use of chemicals in agriculture (Iraq);**
- 116.45 **Make progress in the drafting and implementation of policies and measures aimed at attaining Sri Lanka's sustainable development and overcoming challenges of climate change for the protection and promotion of human rights of its population (Nicaragua);**
- 116.46 **Integrate the protection and promotion of human rights in its environmental policies and strategies for response to disasters (Cuba);**
- 116.47 **Incorporate climate change considerations into the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (Viet Nam);**
- 116.48 **Continue its efforts for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the grass-roots level (Pakistan);**
- 116.49 **Focus on economic, social and cultural rights as a first step towards achieving programmes within the framework of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (United Arab Emirates);**
- 116.50 **Continue efforts to ensure the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for the entire population (Algeria);**
- 116.51 **Strengthen the human rights approach in policies to fight against terrorism (Peru);**
- 116.52 **Review the anti-terrorist legislation in order to bring it in line with international standards (Estonia);**
- 116.53 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**
- 116.54 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Timor-Leste);**
- 116.55 **Strengthen the regulatory and institutional framework to ensure implementation of the Zero Tolerance Policy on Torture, as well as enhancing capacity-building on the prevention of torture (Indonesia);**
- 116.56 **Strengthen efforts to prevent torture, especially with respect to people under custody by the criminal investigations department, police and military agencies (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 116.57 **Take all necessary steps to prevent police violence and introduce programmes in police forces and enforcement authorities aimed at raising awareness against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (Slovakia);**
- 116.58 **Establish a solid legislative mechanism to punish all forms of torture and violence committed by the police during investigations in order to get confessions (Madagascar);**
- 116.59 **Continue the ongoing process of consolidating democracy and the rule of law in the country (Nepal);**
- 116.60 **Continue carrying out the policy aimed at bringing legislation in line with its international human rights obligations, and improving judicial and**

penitentiary systems, as well as the application of laws in the area of the rights of national and religious minorities (Russian Federation);

116.61 Advance towards thorough and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in national legislation, including the listing of enforced disappearance as a crime in its criminal legislation (Spain);

116.62 Enact legislation making enforced disappearance a crime under national law in accordance with the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sweden);

116.63 Make the Office of Missing Persons fully operational, inter alia by appointing well-qualified independent commissioners and allocating sufficient funds (Germany);

116.64 Provide the Office on Missing Persons with sufficient resources and equip the office with highly qualified members to perform its mission independently and effectively (Republic of Korea);

116.65 Publish all reports of previous commissions on enforced disappearances, in particular the Presidential Commission to Investigate Complaints of Missing Persons (PCICMP) (Switzerland);

116.66 Adopt legal provisions to define cases of enforced disappearance as a criminal offence in the national law, fully investigate cases of enforced disappearance and bring to justice those responsible (Slovakia);

116.67 Ensure that all allegations of arbitrary detention, torture and enforced disappearance are impartially and effectively investigated by an independent body (Italy);

116.68 Grant the request of families of victims to get information on the names and places of detention of detained persons (France);

116.69 Continue to avail international assistance for investigating war crimes and human rights training for security forces (Islamic Republic of Iran);

116.70 Guarantee completion of ongoing investigations into abuse committed against civilian populations during the civil war (France);

116.71 Ensure that comprehensive measures are in place to thoroughly investigate and provide judicial remedies for cases of violations following the armed conflict (Sierra Leone);

116.72 Continue to investigate, in an independent and impartial manner, all human rights violations committed during the conflict and its aftermath, and to prosecute perpetrators and ensure proper redress to the victims affected, in this regard (State of Palestine);

116.73 Hold security forces and government officials accountable for human rights violations and abuses (United States of America);

116.74 Deepen investigation of cases of human rights violations committed during the conflict, punish the perpetrators and provide adequate reparation to the victims (Argentina);

116.75 Continue efforts to step up psychosocial assistance programmes to victims of the conflict, according to their needs (Islamic Republic of Iran);

116.76 Fulfil all the commitments made on transitional justice, including through the creation of an accountability mechanism which is credible, victim-centric and supported by international practitioners and through full operationalization of independent and impartial work of the recently established Office of Missing Persons (Slovenia);

- 116.77 Establish a comprehensive transitional justice mechanism, including operationalizing of an Office of Missing Persons, a truth-seeking commission, an Office of Reparations and a judicial mechanism with a special counsel, as committed to (South Africa);³
- 116.78 Ensure that the transitional justice system is finally created (France);
- 116.79 Expedite the process of reconciliation and transitional justice, including through the commencement of the operation of the Office of Missing Persons, the enactment of the new counter-terrorism legislation, as well as the additional release of land to the people in the northern and eastern provinces of the country (Thailand);
- 116.80 Establish an encompassing framework of judicial and non-judicial measures to ensure transitional justice, including the creation of a national mechanism of truth, justice and reconciliation and an office for reparations (Belgium);
- 116.81 Accelerate the process to establish a transitional justice system that includes an equal participation of women, that relies on personnel trained to deal with cases of sexual violence and violence against women, and whose rulings are transparent and public (Mexico);
- 116.82 Continue its efforts towards national reconciliation in cooperation with the international community, while fully engaging with all stakeholders (Japan);
- 116.83 Pursue the efforts towards reconciliation and the strengthening of national unity, and to address post-conflict concerns such as the return and resettlement of internally displaced people, and the social rehabilitation and reintegration of former combatants (Nicaragua);
- 116.84 Continue its efforts leading to national reconciliation (Peru);
- 116.85 Pursue efforts to strengthen national reconciliation and ensure the achievement of transitional justice (Qatar);
- 116.86 Continue and step up efforts to promote reconciliation, accountability and human rights, above all through national initiatives such as the national policy on reconciliation (Brazil);
- 116.87 Take the necessary steps to ensure the speedy creation of a Commission for Truth, a Judicial Mechanism and an Office for Reparations pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 (Ireland);
- 116.88 Take the necessary legislative steps to establish a Commission for Truth, a Judicial Mechanism and an Office for Reparations as specified in resolution 30/1 (Germany);
- 116.89 Pursue timely and continued progress in its reconciliation and reform programme in accordance with resolution 30/1 as adopted by the Human Rights Council (New Zealand);
- 116.90 Fully implement the commitments agreed to in Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 (United States of America);
- 116.91 Fully implement its commitments under Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 (Australia);⁴

³ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “The establishment of comprehensive transitional justice mechanism, including operationalizing of an Office of Missing Persons, a truth-seeking commission, an Office of Reparations and a special court with independent counsel as committed to (South Africa)”.

⁴ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Fully implement its commitments under Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 and the recommendations of the Consultative Task

- 116.92 Continue making progress in the implementation of the national reconciliation project through the Ministries of National Integration and Reconciliation and of National Coexistence, Dialogue and Official Languages (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 116.93 Continue efforts to consolidate national reconciliation as a lasting response to the aftermath of the armed conflict (Algeria);
- 116.94 Continue to promote national reconciliation by preventing acts of violence and intimidation against religious and ethnic minorities, and by ensuring effective prosecution and punishment of perpetrators (Holy See);
- 116.95 Promote the rights of and compensation for victims of crimes and witnesses (Egypt);
- 116.96 Ensure the independence and integrity of the authority and division for witness and victim protection and allocate sufficient funds beginning with the 2018 budget (Germany);
- 116.97 Strengthen efforts to protect freedom of religion and promote interreligious dialogue (Italy);
- 116.98 Ensure that the right to freedom of religion and belief is guaranteed and respected (Madagascar);
- 116.99 Increase efforts to guarantee and protect freedom of religion and belief, in line with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);
- 116.100 Actively encourage dialogue between various religious groups to enhance interfaith solidarity, and to prevent potential violence and the spread of religious hatred (Netherlands);
- 116.101 Strengthen existing law and practice to guarantee the right to freedom of religion or belief for all citizens and residents, in particular by prosecuting and punishing all cases of religiously motivated violence (Poland);
- 116.102 Hold accountable perpetrators of harassment and violence against members of religious minority communities (United States of America);
- 116.103 Condemn all acts of intimidation of, or violence against, members of religious minorities, and bring all perpetrators to justice without delay (Netherlands);
- 116.104 Take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of civil society actors and journalists and to investigate cases of threats and attacks against them (State of Palestine);
- 116.105 Ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders (Norway);
- 116.106 Ensure in line with international human rights the protection of women human rights defenders — including through human rights training of the police — so that they can fully participate in society without fear of harassment or violence (Finland);
- 116.107 Take measures to adequately protect human rights defenders, to ensure proper investigation into alleged attacks and to prosecute those found responsible (Ireland);
- 116.108 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking and provide all necessary requirements to ensure the implementation of the strategic plan on this matter (Qatar);

Force on Reconciliation, including to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and replace it with international best practice legislation (Australia)”.

- 116.109 Continue its efforts to implement the strategic plan to combat trafficking in persons (Sudan);
- 116.110 Consider introducing legislation requiring businesses to report publicly on efforts to ensure transparency in supply chains, as part of Sri Lanka's national action plan to combat human trafficking (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 116.111 Take measures to provide the victims of trafficking with effective remedy, including compensation and rehabilitation (Armenia);
- 116.112 Strengthen measures aimed at the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights (South Africa);
- 116.113 Implement recommendations by relevant treaty bodies such as the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to end military involvement in commercial and other civilian activities (Austria);
- 116.114 Continue to promote economic and social sustainable development and poverty reduction, to lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights by its people (China);
- 116.115 Continue to strengthen and reform the social protection system to cover all persons, including those from the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups (Maldives);
- 116.116 Continue the efforts to combat extreme poverty within the Sustainable Development Goals framework (Morocco);
- 116.117 Take all necessary measures to reduce poverty (Saudi Arabia);
- 116.118 Fully implement its Vision 2025, expand existing programmes such as the Gramashakthi People's Movement, or establish new initiatives where necessary, to boost poverty alleviation efforts and to address regional disparities (Singapore);
- 116.119 Continue appropriate policies to eliminate poverty in Sri Lanka by 2030 as stated in paragraph 87 of the report (United Arab Emirates);
- 116.120 Continue to pursue its successful social policies in the fight against poverty, with the aim of increasing the quality of life of its people, particularly the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 116.121 Continue its efforts in alleviating poverty through health, education and housing programmes and in developing enabling legislation to ensure the human rights of vulnerable groups (Bhutan);
- 116.122 Encourage the implementation of its national policy on poverty alleviation to realize its goals of eradicating poverty in the country by 2030 (Brunei Darussalam);
- 116.123 Establish a specific programme to produce opportunities for income for women, mainly in rural areas (Honduras);
- 116.124 Establish a disaggregated database on women heads of households to be used uniformly in welfare and resettlement policies and programmes, including to ensure that women heads of households and internally displaced persons have targeted psychosocial and livelihood assistance, as well as adequate and durable access to housing (Finland);
- 116.125 Continue to take positive measures to better protect the right of its people to education, health care, employment, housing and food, etc. (China);
- 116.126 Continue to implement measures to promote infrastructure development and capacity-building, especially in the field of health and medical services (Japan);

- 116.127 **Take measures to allocate adequate resources to develop the quality of health and educational services in plantation areas (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 116.128 **Adopt in line with the 2030 Agenda all legislative and political measures as needed to guarantee universal access to sexual and reproductive health, according to the Plan of Action of the Beijing Conference (Honduras);**
- 116.129 **Ensure equal access to education for vulnerable people, including women, children and persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 116.130 **Strengthen the democratic control of the defence sector, in particular suspend the involvement of members of the armed forces in economic activities, in order to ensure guarantee of property of citizens, as well as their livelihoods (Switzerland);**
- 116.131 **Accelerate the restitution of lands confiscated by the army and set up a satisfactory compensation system (France);**
- 116.132 **Consider the review of the land laws in order to address the immediate needs of internally displaced persons (Georgia);**
- 116.133 **Take all the necessary measures to significantly increase the process of returning occupied private land back to its rightful owners, with a view to also addressing accusations of land-grabbing (Haiti);**
- 116.134 **Set up a genuine policy on protection and promotion of women's rights (France);**
- 116.135 **Intensify measures to advance women's rights, including vocational training of youth and measures relating to access to justice, and legislative reform, as well as implementation of gender responsiveness at all levels of governance and policymaking (Indonesia);**
- 116.136 **Continue efforts to enhance the empowerment of women and the elimination of discrimination and violence against women (Tunisia);**
- 116.137 **Fully incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into Sri Lanka's domestic system (Norway);**
- 116.138 **Guarantee equality between men and women through an exhaustive review of national legislation (Guatemala);**
- 116.139 **Review and repeal discriminatory provisions against women in its domestic legislation (Latvia);**
- 116.140 **Consider undertaking a review of domestic laws with a view to guaranteeing equality between men and women, including laws that govern the rights of succession with respect to land permits and grants, and the absence of a minimum age for marriage under Muslim law (Ghana);**
- 116.141 **Eliminate discriminatory practices against women in relation to rights to succession, inheritance and possession of land (Spain);**
- 116.142 **Review domestic laws that have an impact on equality between women and men, in particular those that govern rights of succession, the disposal of immovable property and the establishment of a minimum age for marriage (Portugal);**
- 116.143 **Repeal domestic legislation that discriminates against women, including on rights to succession to land permits and grants, and the disposal of immovable property, as well as to address obstacles to equal participation of women in political, economic and public life (Namibia);**
- 116.144 **Continue efforts to address discrimination against women and combat gender-based violence (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

- 116.145 **Strengthen efforts towards elimination of violence against women (Georgia);**
- 116.146 **Pursue all efforts to fight gender-based violence (Saudi Arabia);**
- 116.147 **Design and implement strategies to tackle sexual and gender-based violence, including addressing related stigma towards victims and survivors, as per the National Human Rights Action Plan, the National Plan of Action for addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and the Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 116.148 **Criminalize conjugal violence and adopt a comprehensive strategy to prevent and fight against gender-based violence (Honduras);**
- 116.149 **Continue to take measures to end all forms of violence against women and expedite the finalization of amendments to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (Maldives);⁵**
- 116.150 **Allocate adequate resources to ensure the continuous and effective implementation of the National Action Plan to Address Gender-Based Violence (Malaysia);**
- 116.151 **Continuously provide gender-sensitive trainings to authorities handling gender-based violence cases (Malaysia);**
- 116.152 **Intensify its efforts to investigate allegations of sexual violence by the security forces and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished (Timor-Leste);**
- 116.153 **Protect and promote the rights of women, end sexual violence in conflict and do not allow impunity for such crimes (Egypt);**
- 116.154 **Equip all police stations with a women's desk, private rooms, and a sufficient number of female police officers, with a view to better ensuring women's and girls' access to justice (Haiti);**
- 116.155 **Increase women's participation in public and political life, and reform laws that discriminate against women (Iraq);**
- 116.156 **Continue promoting the participation and empowerment of women in the decision-making process and combat discrimination against their role in the family and society (Libya);**
- 116.157 **Continue the efforts to promote and protect the rights of women, and strengthen measures already adopted aimed at enhancing their political participation (Morocco);**
- 116.158 **Pursue sustained policies aimed at the promotion of women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels of government (Norway);**
- 116.159 **Work on the implementation of the Agenda on Women, Peace and Security so as to ensure effective participation of women in all areas of decision-making processes (Spain);**
- 116.160 **Enhance participation by women in political and public life and further increase assistance to women heads of households in gaining access to employment and services to improve their socioeconomic conditions (Bahrain);**
- 116.161 **Adopt concrete initiatives to eradicate all kinds of discrimination against children, through the empowerment of their rights and fair mechanisms of reparation (Ecuador);**

⁵ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Continue to take measures to end all forms of violence against women and expedite the finalization of Domestic Violence Bill (Maldives)".

- 116.162 **Adopt special measures to ensure that persons in particularly vulnerable situations, such as children, have meaningful access to the justice system and other complaint procedures (Bahrain);**
- 116.163 **Address discrimination against children on the basis of their ethnic origin or economic situation (Iraq);**
- 116.164 **Continue efforts to protect effectively women, children, and ethnic minorities' rights, and combat discrimination they are facing (Poland);**
- 116.165 **Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);**
- 116.166 **Continue its efforts for the protection of children and combating child labour (Tunisia);**
- 116.167 **Ensure access of persons with disabilities to education, employment, public transportation, health and political participation, and eliminate discriminatory laws and regulations (Mexico);**
- 116.168 **Continue allocating adequate funds for welfare programmes providing support to persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);**
- 116.169 **Continue with its efforts to increase the number of persons with disabilities employed in the public service (Brunei Darussalam);**
- 116.170 **Continue to effectively address issues such as poor access to education and health systems for persons with disabilities (Japan);**
- 116.171 **Continue the protection programmes and policies of the Tamil population so that they can fully enjoy their rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights (Peru);**
- 116.172 **Give particular attention to the effective participation of minorities in the decision-taking process, offering equal economic and social opportunities, and to create practices and institutions to ensure that the ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity of the country can be fully integrated (Guatemala);**
- 116.173 **Accelerate the enactment of the Sri Lanka Employment Migration Authority Act on the protection of migrant workers and their families in line with the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**
- 116.174 **Apply alternatives to detention of irregular migrants, in particular for families and children (Portugal);**
- 116.175 **Reinforce its policies to provide asylum seekers and refugees access to education services that are available nationally (Holy See);**
- 116.176 **Exert further efforts to ensure return and resettlement of the remaining internally displaced persons (Azerbaijan);**
- 116.177 **Strengthen measures to address the needs of people affected and displaced by conflict and seek durable solutions to their displacement (Egypt).**
117. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below have been examined by Sri Lanka and have been noted by Sri Lanka:**
- 117.1 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro) (Spain);**
- 117.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Poland);**
- 117.3 **Halt the use of the death penalty in all circumstances and take steps towards its abolition, including ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand);**

- 117.4 Consider ratifying the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 117.5 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish a National Torture Prevention Mechanism (Austria);
- 117.6 Ratify the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Slovakia);
- 117.7 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Burundi);
- 117.8 Adhere to and adapt national legislation to the Arms Trade Treaty and sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Guatemala);
- 117.9 Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Portugal) (Sierra Leone);
- 117.10 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Slovenia) (Timor-Leste);
- 117.11 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);
- 117.12 Adhere to and adapt its national legislation with the Rome Statute (Guatemala);
- 117.13 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align its legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);
- 117.14 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Guatemala);
- 117.15 Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);
- 117.16 Guarantee that the new constitution clearly and expressly recognizes the fundamental principle of the separation of powers, establishes checks and balances and guarantees the independence of the judiciary and the courts, while ensuring that all stakeholders have a place at the table when drafting the new constitution (Haiti);
- 117.17 Consider the creation of a Ministry responsible for acceleration of the implementation of the new National Human Rights Action Plan 2017–2021, developed in 2016 (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 117.18 Ensure that Constitutional reforms guarantee equal protections, rights and treatment of all individuals, without distinction (Canada);
- 117.19 Amend its laws that discriminate against women, and decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct (Australia);
- 117.20 Amend the Penal Code, particularly Sections 365 and 365A, to decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct and displays of affection (Netherlands);
- 117.21 Decriminalize same-sex relations and take concrete measures to combat discrimination and violence against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Brazil);
- 117.22 Decriminalize same-sex conduct by repealing Sections 365 and 365A of the Penal Code (Canada);

- 117.23 Amend the Penal Code, particularly Sections 365 and 365A, to decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct as well as displays of affection (Sweden);
- 117.24 Modify the criminal code in order to decriminalize consensual sexual behaviour between persons of the same sex, suppress degrading terms that could be used against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, and avoid abuse and harassment by police authorities (Uruguay);
- 117.25 Decriminalize same-sex consensual relationships and adopt all necessary measures to combat discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and guarantee access of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people to health services (Honduras);
- 117.26 End impunity and ensure that perpetrators of incitement to hatred and violence are brought to justice in compliance with international law (Sweden);
- 117.27 Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and enforce an immediate moratorium on its use; ensure that the draft Counter-Terrorism Act is compliant with international human rights standards (Canada);
- 117.28 Abolish the death penalty (Australia);
- 117.29 Take concrete measures to abolish the death penalty (Norway);
- 117.30 Transform its de facto moratorium on the application of the death penalty into definitive abolition (Portugal);
- 117.31 Abolish capital punishment, establish a moratorium on all pending executions and commute all death sentences to prison sentences (Slovakia);
- 117.32 Abolish capital punishment and commute death sentences to prison terms (Holy See);
- 117.33 Abolish the death penalty, considering that the moratorium on judicial executions has been in place since 1975 (Namibia);
- 117.34 Ensure, in law and in practice, that all detainees are afforded fundamental legal safeguards from the outset (Holy See);
- 117.35 Publish a consolidated list of missing persons (Switzerland);
- 117.36 Take comprehensive measures to ensure that the alleged war crimes and other human rights violations committed during the internal conflict are investigated and prosecuted, with the aim of ending impunity (Estonia);
- 117.37 Expedite the ongoing process and establish a clear timeline to establish a truth-seeking commission and an Office on Reparations as well as a special court to investigate allegations of serious human rights violations (Republic of Korea);
- 117.38 Move with concrete steps — most evidently seen through committed financial resources in the national budget, and appointed experts with concrete mandates — on all four transitional justice mechanisms (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);
- 117.39 Develop a clear timeline and benchmarks for the full implementation of Sri Lanka's commitments under Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 (Germany);
- 117.40 Develop a clear timeline and benchmarks for the full implementation of its commitments in Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 (Norway);
- 117.41 Develop an unambiguous timeline accompanied with a monitoring framework for the full implementation of its commitments under Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);

117.42 **Act on its commitments in Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 including to establish transitional justice mechanisms, and to establish a clear timeline to this end (Austria);**

117.43 **Develop a clear timeline and benchmarks for the full implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 (Denmark);**

117.44 **Foster reconciliation through accelerated implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, including by launching the Office of Missing Persons, ending military involvement in civilian functions, returning lands to civilian owners, and establishing a judicial mechanism with the participation of foreign investigators, prosecutors and judges (Canada);**

117.45 **Fully implement the recommendations of the Consultative Task Force on Reconciliation, including to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and replace it with international best practice legislation (Australia);⁶**

117.46 **Adopt a national policy on the protection of journalists and human rights defenders to combat intimidation and violence, and to ensure effective investigation of such acts and prosecution of perpetrators (Austria);**

117.47 **Consider a large-scale transfer of land for civilian use in the northern and eastern provinces of the country (Ghana);**

117.48 **Continue its efforts to ensure legal ownership and restitution to long-term internally displaced persons and refugees, as provided by international law standards (Holy See);**

117.49 **Amend or repeal article 16 of the Constitution and amend all Personal Laws to remove discriminatory provisions against women as well as barriers to engaging in the political process (Canada);**

117.50 **Strengthen measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women, inter alia by criminalizing marital rape (Belgium);**

117.51 **Adopt specific legislation that explicitly prohibits domestic violence, including marital rape, and ensure its stringent implementation and enforcement (Slovenia);**

117.52 **Amend the Penal Code to decriminalize and eliminate all punitive measures related to termination of pregnancies in cases of rape, incest and severe foetal impairment (Denmark);**

117.53 **Take the necessary measures to establish a national procedure for the determination of refugee status (Argentina).**

118. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

119. Ensure that the ongoing constitutional reform process is inclusive, and takes into account fundamental principles of equality and non-discrimination, separation of powers, checks and balances, and the independence of the judiciary.

120. Train and appoint information officers and designated officers to all public authorities covered under the Right to Information Act to fulfil the right to information.

⁶ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Fully implement its commitments under Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 and the recommendations of the Consultative Task Force on Reconciliation, including to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and replace it with international best practice legislation (Australia)”.

121. Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and designate the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka as the national preventive and monitoring mechanism to fulfil obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
122. Review and repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and replace it with new counter-terrorism legislation compliant with international human rights standards.
123. Increase the number of, and strengthen, the women's and children's desks of the Children's and Women's Bureau of the Sri Lanka Police to ensure a gender-responsive justice system.
124. Enforce legislation guaranteeing women's political representation at the provincial and local authority levels.
125. Ensure, and strengthen, respect for the fundamental rights of all persons, including those from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer community, and address concerns raised in that regard.
126. Formulate a comprehensive reparations policy to guide the granting of reparations to persons affected by the armed conflict, including internally displaced persons.
127. Ensure that all security forces personnel to be deployed in overseas peacekeeping missions are adequately vetted through a comprehensive process with the participation of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.
128. Fulfil commitments contained in Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 towards the operationalization of the Office on Missing Persons, and the establishment of a truth-seeking commission, an office for reparations, and a judicial mechanism with a special counsel.
129. Work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of alleviating poverty through national-level initiatives including the Gramashakthi People's Movement.
130. Take measures to incorporate the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into domestic law.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Sri Lanka was headed by Hon. (Dr.) Harsha de Silva, MP Deputy Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - H.E. Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinha, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Geneva;
 - Mr. Nerin Pulle, Deputy Solicitor General, Attorney General's Department;
 - Mrs. Samantha Jayasuriya, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka in Geneva;
 - Ms. Mahishini Colonne, Director General/UN, US, Canada, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Chandima Wickramasinghe, Senior Assistant Secretary to the President;
 - Mr. Gehan Gunatilleke, Consultant to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Shashika Somaratne, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka in Geneva;
 - Ms. Mafusa Lafir, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka in Geneva;
 - Ms. Dulmini Dahanayake, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka in Geneva;
 - Ms. Nethmini Medawela, Research and Coordination Assistant, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
-