



General Assembly

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General debate

Letter dated 27 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to attach herewith the written statement of the delegation of Sri Lanka in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada, John Baird, on 26 September 2011, in the General Assembly (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Palitha T. B. **Kohona**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Statement of the delegation of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada in the general debate on 26 September 2011

The Sri Lanka delegation is deeply concerned at the remarks made by the Canadian Minister for Foreign Affairs, John Baird, despite extensive efforts to keep the Canadian delegation in Geneva informed of the reasons for and background to Sri Lanka's objections to the Canadian initiative on an interactive dialogue on the lessons learned and reconciliation commission process in Sri Lanka at the March 2012 session of the Human Rights Council, including domestic mechanisms put in place. The Sri Lankan objections have been endorsed by a wide cross section of members of the Council.

In the United Nations, an organization comprising 193 countries subscribing to a range of social, economic and political philosophies, procedure and process are critically important to ensure good governance and prevent intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations from being abused for narrow domestic political advantage and selective application of principle. The rule-based framework of the United Nations system, which we all value, must be safeguarded, for the protection of all, against such abuse.
