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Agenda item 2

Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

**Canada,* Malawi, Montenegro,* North Macedonia and United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland*: draft resolution**

60/... Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka

The Human Rights Council,

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and relevant international human rights treaties,*

*Recalling previous Human Rights Council resolutions on promoting reconciliation,
accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka, the most recent of which being resolution 57/1
of 9 October 2024,*

*Reaffirming its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial
integrity of Sri Lanka,*

*Reaffirming also that it is the primary responsibility of each State to respect human
rights and to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by its
entire population,*

*Welcoming the holding of free and transparent democratic presidential, parliamentary
and local elections, in September 2024, November 2024 and May 2025, respectively,*

*Calling upon the Government of Sri Lanka to fulfil its commitments on the devolution
of political authority, which is integral to reconciliation and the full enjoyment of human
rights by all members of its population, and encouraging the Government to respect local
governance, including through the holding of elections for provincial councils, and to ensure
that all provincial councils, including the northern and eastern provincial councils, are able
to operate effectively, in accordance with the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution of Sri
Lanka,*

*Welcoming the ongoing efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka to address the effects
of the severe economic crisis, and underscoring the importance of addressing the underlying
governance factors and root causes that contributed to that crisis, including militarization,
corruption, lack of accountability in governance and impunity for human rights violations
and abuses,*

* State not a member of the Human Rights Council.



Reaffirming that all individuals in Sri Lanka are entitled to the full enjoyment of their human rights without distinction of any kind such as religion, belief or ethnic origin, and the importance of a peaceful and unified land to the enjoyment of human rights,

Emphasizing the need to promote and protect the rights of women and children, including by combating gender-based violence,

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive accountability process for all violations and abuses of human rights committed in Sri Lanka by all parties, including those abuses by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam,

Recalling the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations under human rights law and international humanitarian law, including, where applicable, to prosecute those responsible for gross violations of human rights law or serious violations of international humanitarian law,

1. *Welcomes* the oral update presented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-eighth session and the report of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presented to the Council at its current session;¹

2. *Also welcomes* the visit to Sri Lanka by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in June 2025 at the invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka, and the engagement of the Government with the Office of the High Commissioner and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, encourages the continuation of such engagement and dialogue, and calls upon the Government to implement the recommendations made by the Office and to give due consideration to the recommendations made by the special procedures;

3. *Recognizes* the measures taken by the Government of Sri Lanka towards accountability for corruption and economic mismanagement, which had a significant detrimental impact on the enjoyment of human rights in Sri Lanka, and encourages further action in this regard, including investigations into and, where warranted, the prosecution of corruption, including where committed by current and former public officials;

4. *Welcomes* the acknowledgement by the Government of Sri Lanka of the harm and suffering resulting from decades of divisive racist politics and ethnic conflicts, its recognition of the shared pain and grief of individuals in all communities, and its commitment to guarantee democracy, to restore the rule of law and to create a society free from discrimination;

5. *Notes* the commitment made by the Government of Sri Lanka to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the appointment of a committee to examine its repeal, while expressing concern that detentions under that law continue, mainly against individuals from Tamil and Muslim communities, and urges the Government to apply a moratorium on the use of the law, to expedite its repeal and to ensure that any legislation on combating terrorism complies fully with the State's obligations arising from international law;

6. *Welcomes* the commitment made by the Government of Sri Lanka to amend the Online Safety Act and the appointment of a committee to formulate amendments to the law, while acknowledging concerns about the absence of judicial oversight in the Act and broad definition of offences and enforcement powers, and encourages the Government to expedite its amendment to ensure that the Act complies fully with the State's international obligations to protect the right to freedom of opinion and expression;

7. *Recognizes* that many cases of enforced disappearance remain unresolved in Sri Lanka, and the prolonged suffering this has caused to the families of the disappeared, acknowledges the identification of multiple mass graves sites in Sri Lanka, stresses the need for ongoing work to be provided with adequate resources, and the importance of the independent and effective functioning of the Office on Missing Persons, and urges the Government of Sri Lanka to proactively seek international support to ensure sufficient

¹ A/HRC/60/21.

financial, human and technical resources to conduct exhumations in accordance with international standards;

8. *Welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to a renewed direction on several long-standing issues, acknowledges the reopening of investigations into and the prosecution of some emblematic cases of human rights violations and the Easter Sunday bombings, and urges the Government to accelerate investigations and prosecutions in compliance with international human rights standards, to seek international assistance to strengthen capacities, and to ensure the full participation of victims, survivors and their representatives, as well as the protection of victims and witnesses;

9. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to establish an independent public prosecutorial body, urges that the body be fully independent, effective and robust, and encourages the Government to consider creating a judicial mechanism with an independent special counsel to consider cases of human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law committed in past decades;

10. *Calls upon* the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into, and, if warranted, the prosecution of, all alleged crimes relating to human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law, including long-standing emblematic cases, with the full participation of victims and their representatives;

11. *Calls for* an end to all forms of harassment of and reprisals against representatives of civil society, human rights defenders, journalists, victims, survivors and their families, especially women;

12. *Stresses* the importance of releasing lands still occupied and used economically by the military and other State actors, and of resolving land disputes involving archaeological, religious and conservation issues in ways that are transparent, consultative, impartial and non-discriminatory;

13. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and all work requested of it by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 51/1 of 6 October 2022, and requests the Office to present an oral update to the Council at its sixty-first and sixty-fourth sessions, a written update at its sixty-third session, and a comprehensive report on progress in reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka at its sixty-sixth session, to be discussed during an interactive dialogue.
