

UN Human Rights Council

30th session

Item 2: The report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka

Intervention by Denmark

Mr. President,

Denmark fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

We would like to thank the High Commissioner for his comprehensive and thorough report on Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka.

Impunity for large scale violations of human rights may risk setting a damaging precedent in terms of how states deal with internal dissent and conflict. Denmark firmly believes that justice and accountability are key element towards true reconciliation. In this context, we note with serious concern that national mechanisms in Sri Lanka have consistently failed to independently or credibly investigate the alleged human rights violations. We therefore fully support the High Commissioner's call for a solid and credible justice process with the support and participation of the international community to ensure accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed by all parties to the armed conflict.

Mr. President,

As stated by the High Commissioner is it a historic opportunity for Sri Lanka to address the violations committed against the people of Sri Lanka and establishes a true basis for long-term conciliation and peace. Denmark echoes the importance of setting up a high-level executive group to develop a coordinated and time-bound plan for implementing the recommendations of the present as well as previous reports of the High Commissioner.

Denmark shares the concerns expressed by the High Commissioner about the continued human rights issues in Sri Lanka, including in relation to surveillance and harassment of human rights defenders, and the need for fundamental reforms of, among others, the justice and security sectors.

I thank you.