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The Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations Office and other  
International Organizations in Geneva

30<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council

Item 2 – discussion on the OHCHR Report on Sri Lanka

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Montenegro, Ambassador Nebojša  
Kaluderović

Thank you Mr. President.

We thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the very  
comprehensive report on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

We welcome the Report that has set a clear guideline for the international community  
and the Government of Sri Lanka that should be duly considered on the way towards a  
long-term reconciliation and stability. The Report has summarised a number of serious  
alleged violations that constitute gross violations of international human rights law and  
international humanitarian law, and points out that international crimes were  
committed by all parties during the period under investigation. It has also recognized  
that new Government of Sri Lanka is set to tackle these challenges and to cooperate  
with international human rights institutions in this regard.

We fully agree with the OHCHR's assessment that nowadays Sri Lanka has a historic  
opportunity to address the grave human rights violations and abuses from the past  
conflict. Only a credible approach to investigation of serious crimes committed over the  
past by all sides of the conflict and ensuring justice for victims and their families, can  
help reaching durable peace in Sri Lanka, and improve its rule of law and human rights  
situation at large.

As a state belonging to the region that has faced inter-ethnic conflict in its recent  
history, we are fully aware that post-conflict transition does not happen overnight and  
are not necessarily irreversible processes. A successful political transition requires time,  
in which political will of the Government to enhance rule of law, accountability and  
strengthen institutions should be persistent.

We are pleased to note that the new Government of Sri Lanka has shown readiness to  
pursue accountability, ensure truth, justice and redress to victims. We encourage the  
Government to introduce institutional and legislative reforms that will lead to a long-  
term reconciliation. We additionally encourage the Government to fulfil its  
commitments, and cooperate closely with the international human rights institutions  
with a view to ensure that effective transitional justice mechanisms have been put in  
place.

Finally, as a member of HRC and the Core Group for Resolution on the promotion of reconciliation in Sri Lanka, we particularly appreciate the High Commissioner's assessment that "the Human Rights Council has - and should continue to play - a critically important role in encouraging progress on accountability and reconciliation in Sri Lanka". Therefore, we will continue to closely follow the developments in Sri Lanka in this regard.

Thank you Mr. President.