The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner due to word-limit constraints. For the full text, please refer to the document referenced. This report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of OHCHR other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.
## I. Background and framework

### A. Scope of international obligations

#### International human rights treaties

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
<th>Action after review</th>
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<td>ICCPR-OP 1 (Declaration, art. 1)</td>
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<td>ICRMW (Declaration: arts. 8.2, 29, 49 and 54)</td>
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<td>ICERD art. 14</td>
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<td>OP-ICESCR arts. 1, 10 and 11</td>
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<td>CAT art. 20</td>
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<td>CAT arts. 21 and 22</td>
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<td>CPED arts. 30, 31, 32 and 33</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>ICRMW arts. 76 and 77</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>OP-CRC-IC arts. 12, 5 and 13</td>
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Other main relevant international instruments

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<td>UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education</td>
<td>Additional Protocols I, II and III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions</td>
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<td>ILO Convention No. 169</td>
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1. Treaty bodies invited Sri Lanka to consider ratifying CPED, CRPD, OP-CRPD, OP-ICESCR, OP-CAT, the Rome Statute, the four main refugee and stateless persons conventions, the Palermo Protocol, and ILO Convention No. 169. In 2012, the Special Rapporteur on torture also called upon the Government to take measures to ratify OP-CAT and establish a National Preventive Mechanism.

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), in 2010, and the Special Rapporteur on torture, in 2012, expressed concern at the 18th Constitutional Amendment of 2010, which eliminated the Constitutional Council and empowered the President to make direct appointments of members to key Commissions, such as the National Police Commissioner and the Chairperson and members of the Human Rights Commission (HRCSL), Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption, members of the Judicial Service Commission and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman). CESCR called upon Sri Lanka to take all necessary measures to ensure the independence and integrity of the judiciary and oversight bodies.

3. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) urged Sri Lanka to fully incorporate the Convention into its domestic legal system, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) also urged Sri Lanka to bring its domestic legislation into conformity with their respective treaties. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) stated that the Government had been taking significant steps to review systematically all existing laws to bring them into conformity with the CRC. Particular reference was made to the ongoing revision of the Children and Young Persons Ordinance of 1939.

4. The Committee against Torture (CAT) recommended that all necessary measures be taken to ensure that enforced disappearance is established as an offence in Sri Lankan law.

5. CESCR urged Sri Lanka to speed up the process of adoption of a right to information act.
C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

Status of national human rights institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National human rights institution</th>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
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6. Two treaty bodies, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Coordinating Committee’s Sub-Committee on Accreditation referred to concerns about the lack of independence of HRCSL. UNCT reported on the United Nations Joint Human Rights Programme’s support from 2009 for strengthening the independence of HRCSL, public reporting, and engagement with civil society. After a 10-month absence, in February 2011 new Commissioners were appointed to HRCSL.

7. CAT expressed concern about the appointment procedure of HRCSL commissioners. CAT recommended that the Government establish a transparent and consultative selection process and ensure that HRCSL is able to carry out independent investigations into possible cases of torture, including in military premises and government-controlled facilities, and publish the results.

8. UNCT reported that, with financial support from the UNJHRP, the Government had completed, approved and published the National Human Rights Action Plan on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (NHRAP). To date there had been no widespread dissemination of the final NHRAP, nor had it been presented to parliament.

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

9. The 11th Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka was held on 26 and 27 May 2009. In its decision S-11/1, adopted by a recorded vote, the Council welcomed the visit to Sri Lanka of the Secretary-General at the invitation of the President of Sri Lanka, and endorsed the joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of the visit and the understandings contained therein.

10. In 2012, the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders was especially concerned at alleged smear campaigns that may have been related to the cooperation of human rights defenders with the United Nations Human Rights Council. The Secretary-General reported on related concerns expressed in 2010.

11. On 22 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 19/2, on “Promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka”, by a recorded vote. The resolution calls on the Government of Sri Lanka, inter alia, to implement the constructive recommendations made in the report of the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC). The Government was requested to present a comprehensive action plan detailing the steps to implement the recommendations made in the Commission’s report and address alleged violations of international law.
A. **Cooperation with treaty bodies**

1. **Reporting status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Concluding observations included in previous review</th>
<th>Latest report submitted since previous review</th>
<th>Latest concluding observations</th>
<th>Reporting status</th>
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<td>–</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>Fifth report due 2015</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>October 2010</td>
<td>Fifth to sixth reports due 2015 Initial OPAC report reviewed in 2010 Initial OPSC report overdue since 2008</td>
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<td>CMW</td>
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2. **Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies**

**Concluding observations**

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<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
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<td>Ensuring or strengthening legal safeguards for detainees; conducting prompt, impartial and effective investigations; and prosecuting suspects and sanctioning perpetrators of torture or ill-treatment</td>
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**Views**

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<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>HR Committee</td>
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<td>Dialogue is ongoing in all four cases and no response has been received yet for two cases(^{46})</td>
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B. Cooperation with special procedures

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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| Visits undertaken   | Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions (1997) | No               |
|                     | Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion or belief (2005); on extrajudicial executions (2005); on torture (2007); Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights of internally displaced persons (2007) |                 |

| Visits agreed to in principle | Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression |                         |

|                         | Independent Expert on minority issues (requested in 2007).           | IE on minority issues (requested in 2010)               |
|                         | Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers              | SR on human rights defenders (Requested in 2008)       |
|                         |                                                                     | SR on freedom of expression (requested in 2009)        |
|                         |                                                                     | SR on extrajudicial executions (requested in 2009, reminder in 2010) |
|                         |                                                                     | SR on freedom of association and assembly (Requested in 2011) |

| Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals | During the period under review, 72 communications were sent. The Government replied to 22 of these communications. |

| Follow-up reports | Extrajudicial executions; torture; and freedom of religion. |

12. The Special Rapporteur on torture expressed his gratitude to Sri Lanka for information on steps taken to implement his predecessor’s recommendations.51

13. In 2012, the Working Group on Disappearances noted that since its establishment, it had transmitted 12,460 cases to the Government. Of these 6,535 cases have been clarified on the basis of information provided by the Government; 5,671 remained outstanding.52 UNCT reported that the United Nations had supported Sri Lanka’s request to establish a database related to the backlog of disappearance cases from WGEID. The database was handed over to HRCSL in June 2011.53

14. In 2009, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) carried out two working visits to Sri Lanka.54
C. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

15. OHCHR maintains a Senior Human Rights Adviser in UNCT. In his follow-up report, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions noted that there was still no OHCHR office with a monitoring and reporting mandate. Sri Lanka has invited the High Commissioner to visit the country.

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

16. CEDAW referred to many areas that reflected the disadvantaged and unequal status of women and girls. CEDAW called for the inclusion of a gender perspective in the National Development Agenda; achieving universal provision of quality education for girls at each level of the education system and from each ethnic group; empowering women migrant workers; and taking all necessary measures to increase the representation of women in politics and public life, such as the adoption of temporary special measures.

17. CESCR referred to repeated recommendations made by treaty bodies since 1998 in relation to the persistence of discriminatory provisions in the law, with CEDAW referring in particular to the Penal Code, Land Development Ordinance, general personal laws, the Muslim Personal Law, the Kandyan Law and Tesawalamai Law. CEDAW also expressed concern about the plurality of legal systems and recommended that Sri Lanka consider preparing a unified family code in conformity with the Convention to address the equal right of inheritance, property and land, polygamy and early marriage with the view to their abolition, and includes the option of civil provisions available for all women.

18. CRC expressed concern, as highlighted by UNCT, at the persistent discrimination against children belonging to the Veddha, Muslim and Tamil communities, among whom those living in tea plantations were in a particularly disadvantaged situation. It was concerned that discrimination also persisted against girls, rural children, refugee and internally displaced children, children of overseas workers, children in institutional care and children with disabilities. It expressed further concern about caste discrimination, which affected 20 to 30 per cent of the population and contributed to their poor living conditions, rejection and marginalization.

19. UNCT referred to reported concerns at the levels of stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV.

B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

20. In 2012, the Special Rapporteur on torture reiterated his appeal to the Government to abolish capital punishment or, at a minimum, commute death sentences into prison sentences.

21. In 2012, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions was concerned by the number and varying nature of communications sent to the Government. He referred to a communication sent in 2011, regarding investigations into the video footage which allegedly documented members of the Sri Lankan Army committing extrajudicial
In that communication, he concluded that the video was authentic and the events reflected in it had occurred as depicted. The Special Rapporteur thanked the Government for its replies and noted its statement that he would be informed of progress achieved upon completion of internal processes.

22. In 2011, CEDAW remained deeply concerned about reports of gross violations of the human rights of women, particularly of the Tamil minority group, internally displaced women and female ex-combatants. CAT was also concerned at reported cases of war-time rape and other acts of sexual violence that occurred following the end of the conflict in particular in military-controlled camps. In 2010, CRC expressed serious concern, as highlighted by UNCT, that insufficient efforts had been made by Sri Lanka to investigate the death of hundreds of children during the five last months of the conflict in 2009 as a result of alleged shelling and aerial bombardments of civilians, hospitals, schools and humanitarian operations as well as the deliberate deprivation of food, medical care and humanitarian assistance. Similar concerns were expressed by CESCR.

23. In 2012, the Working Group onDisappearances noted a communication sent in 2011 regarding allegations concerning the last phase of the war against LTTE from 2006 until 2009. The information referred to serious allegations of human rights violations in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, in particular the Mannar district. In 2011, CAT expressed its concern about 475 cases of enforced disappearance transmitted by the Working Group to Sri Lanka between 2006 and 2010 and the claims that the military, the police, the Criminal Investigation Department and paramilitary groups are the alleged perpetrators. Referring to the decades of cases of adult disappearances, UNCT reported that the LLRC called on the State to launch a full investigation into these incidents and, where necessary, institute prosecutions.

24. Despite Sri Lanka’s public commitment to a zero tolerance policy on torture as a matter of policy and practice, CAT remained seriously concerned at the continued and consistent allegations of the widespread use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of suspects in police custody. CAT called on Sri Lanka to take immediate and effective measures to investigate all acts of torture and ill-treatment and prosecute and punish those responsible.

25. Referring to the Sri Lankan delegation’s categorical denial of the allegations, CAT expressed serious concern at reports received from non-governmental sources regarding secret detention centres run by the Sri Lankan military intelligence and paramilitary groups where enforced disappearances, torture and extrajudicial killings had allegedly been perpetrated. Recommendations addressing this concern were made by the Special Rapporteur on torture in 2012. CAT recommended that Sri Lanka immediately establish a central register for all persons in official custody and publish a list of all detainees and places of detention.

26. UNCT reported that under Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), there were no new cases of recruitment of children by armed groups since October 2009. However, the whereabouts of 1,373 children, out of a total of 6,905 who had been reported as recruited by LTTE, remained unknown as did the location of five boys recruited by the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP). UNCT provided information about three rehabilitation centres, in operation during different periods, which provided assistance to children associated with LTTE, TMVP and Inya Bharathi. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict recommended that: investigations on child recruitment by the Inya Barrathi be completed in a transparent manner; those with command responsibility who are in Government custody and have committed grave crimes against children should be held accountable; truth telling should be encouraged with regard to commanders and recruiters of all armed groups (LTTE, TMVP, Karuna faction and Bharathi group) to identify and make known those children recruited by these groups and to
identify their fate; strengthening of the current Family Tracing and Reunification capacity and its expansion into the eastern regions of the country; and immediate implementation of the LLRC recommendations regarding children.

27. UNCT reported that following the end of hostilities in May 2009 and the exodus of IDPs from the Vanni, the Government undertook a process to separate IDPs who were suspected of being associated with LTTE. Approximately 11,600 of those separated and termed as “surrendees” were sent to “Protective Administrative and Rehabilitation Centres” (PARCs) for rehabilitation. Since July 2009, the Government had denied access to PARCs by independent monitors, including the ICRC. 1,007 “surrendees” remained in four PARCs. Following the release of the “surrendees”, they were subjected to ad-hoc and varying levels of surveillance and monitoring. CAT remained concerned at allegations of torture and ill-treatment during questioning of camp residents by the Criminal Investigation Department and the Terrorist Investigation Department. It was concerned that those allegations had not been investigated outside the context of the LLRC process and no judicial action had been taken.

28. UNCT reported that both the National Policy on Reintegration of Ex-Combatants into Civilian Life and an abbreviated planning document on the Way forward on Reinsertion and Reintegration of Rehabilitees were formulated with United Nations support, but had not been implemented.

29. UNCT highlighted recommendations made by CEDAW with a view to criminalizing all forms of violence against women; extending criminalization of marital rape regardless of judicial acknowledgement of separation; strengthening measures to combat all forms of trafficking in women and children; and taking measures to protect women from sexual harassment in the workplace. Concerns about the magnitude of child sexual exploitation and abuse, including sex tourism, were raised by CRC, CESC and the ILO Committee of Experts on Application of Conventions and Recommendations. UNCT noted that no action had been taken by the Government to repeal the Vagrancy Ordinance and that a comprehensive national strategy against child abuse had yet to be formulated.

30. CAT recommended that Sri Lanka should consider amending its Penal Code with a view to prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings.

C. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

31. In 2012, CAT expressed serious concern at the failure of Sri Lanka in practice to afford all detainees, including those detained under anti-terrorism laws, all fundamental safeguards and noted the absence of an effective independent monitoring mechanism to investigate complaints of torture. It also expressed concern at the absence of a State-sponsored legal aid programme and at the variety of obstacles rendering the writ of habeas corpus ineffective. CAT remained concerned at the prevailing climate of impunity and expressed concern at numerous reports concerning the lack of independence of the judiciary.

32. Noting the voluntary commitments made in the UPR, CAT recommended that Sri Lanka, inter alia, consider adopting the draft bill on witness and victim protection and improve the capacity of police to carry out investigations, with additional training in interrogation and prosecution. Regarding witness and victim protection, UNCT reported that a draft bill, which did not meet international standards, had existed since 2007. No action had been taken to adopt the draft bill or introduce new legislation.

33. On 26 April 2011, the High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the Secretary-General’s Panel of Experts on accountability in Sri Lanka reported credible
allegations which, if proven, indicated that a wide range of serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law had been committed by the Sri Lankan military and LTTE, some of which would amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. On 30 May 2011, the High Commissioner stated that it was incumbent on the Government to investigate these allegations and also urged it to implement the measures recommended by the Panel.

In 2012, the Special Rapporteur on torture noted the Government’s efforts to expedite criminal proceedings relating to torture cases by establishing various ad hoc commissions of inquiry, including the Presidential Commission of Inquiry to investigate serious cases of human rights violations that had occurred since 1 August 2005, as well as the establishment of LLRC and the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee. He called on the Government to take steps to address the outstanding concerns raised by CAT over the limited mandate of LLRC and its alleged lack of independence, and promptly launch impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of torture, rape, enforced disappearances and other forms of ill-treatment occurring during the last stages of the conflict and in the post-conflict phase. In addition to the call by CRC for prompt, independent and impartial investigations, CEDAW recommended that Sri Lanka consider having an independent international accountability mechanism mandated to investigate the cases of serious violations of human rights and CAT recommended that Sri Lanka consider the possibility of accepting an international investigatory body.

Concerns about the deplorable levels of overcrowding and poor detention conditions were expressed by CESCR and CAT. UNCT reported that, while upgrading had commenced in certain facilities, overcrowding remained a serious problem. One of the root causes of prison overcrowding was the recurrent delays in the justice system.

CRC expressed its serious concern that: the legal minimum age of criminal responsibility remained at a very low level (eight years); sentencing remained severe and disproportionate; community-based alternatives were limited; and institutionalization was frequently used. UNCT also raised concerns about the administration of juvenile justice.

CESCR expressed concern that Sri Lanka has not yet taken firm and effective measures to combat corruption and impunity.

D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

UNCT highlighted the concern of CEDAW at the criminalization of consensual adult same-sex relationships by virtue of Section 365A of the penal code and recommended that this provision be repealed. UNCT reported that many individuals from these communities faced ongoing violence and discrimination.

E. Freedom of movement

UNCT reported that from March 2008, starting with the Kalimoddai and Sirukandal camps in Mannar District, all IDP camps established for those fleeing the conflict from LTTE-controlled areas were closed camps. In May 2009, there were around 290,000 IDPs in closed camps. Approximately 6,000 individuals currently remained in Menik Farm, while a pass system to move between zones had been introduced in late 2009, which remained a restriction to full freedom of movement. Similar concerns were expressed by CAT.
F. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

40. CAT expressed its concern at reports that human rights defenders, defence lawyers and other civil society actors, including political activists, trade unionists and independent media journalists had been singled out as targets of intimidation, harassment, including death threats and physical attacks and politically motivated charges. It regretted that, in many cases, those allegedly responsible for intimidation and reprisal appeared to enjoy impunity. CAT was also concerned about information received according to which the Ministry of Defence had published articles on its website implying that lawyers defending individuals were “traitors” to the nation and that one of these articles, entitled “Traitors in Black Cloaks Flocked Together”, included the names and photographs of five lawyers, putting them at risk.127 Similar concerns were expressed by the High Commissioner128 and the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders.129 CRC urged, inter alia, the removal of unnecessary barriers and control over the work of non-governmental organizations.130

41. According to UNCT, communities in the North were not being allowed the right to peacefully assemble without oversight and/or direct participation by the military.131

42. CMW encouraged Sri Lanka expeditiously to take all necessary steps to ensure that Sri Lankan migrants abroad are able to register and participate in elections.132

G. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

43. CESCР recommended that Sri Lanka adopt a national action plan for the promotion of stable employment opportunities for women133 and younger Sri Lankans.134

44. CESCР was concerned at the restrictions on trade union activities, the widespread harassment of trade unionists and the low protection against anti-union discrimination, especially in export processing zones (EPZs).135

H. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

45. CEDAW reiterated its concern about the increase in the number of widows, as a result of the conflict and the tsunami of 2004, with meagre means of living.136 CESCР was concerned that disadvantaged and marginalized groups, notably families in the plantation sector and older persons, remained excluded or were not covered by the Samurdhi poverty alleviation programme due to shortcomings in its management and coordination, corruption and fraud.137 UNCT reported on findings that Samurdhi did not provide effective protection for vulnerable families, nor was the amount of assistance sufficient for survival.138 CESCР encouraged Sri Lanka to continue its collaboration with ILO to expand social security coverage.139

46. CESCР recommended that Sri Lanka address the acute housing shortage by adopting a national strategy and plan of action.140

I. Right to health

47. UNCT reported that maternal and child malnutrition remained a major challenge.141 CRC noted that malnutrition affected nearly one third of children due mainly to unequal distribution of services in regions. It recommended that Sri Lanka seek technical cooperation from UNICEF and WHO.142 CESCР encouraged the formulation and implementation of an Integrated Nutrition Programme.143
48. CESC recommended that Sri Lanka adopt the 2007 draft Mental Health Act and formulate strategies to strengthen available psycho-social assistance, especially for children, and recruit more mental health workers and other specialized professionals to address post-conflict mental disorders.\textsuperscript{144}

49. Recommendations were made by CEDAW and CESC to address their concerns at maternal mortality and the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls, particularly those who were internally displaced or working in less developed and conflict areas. Particular attention was drawn to the problem of teenage pregnancies and the need to review laws relating to abortion with a view to removing punitive provisions.\textsuperscript{145}

50. UNCT reported that drug users were detained mandatorily and not afforded effective treatment options and that four compulsory drug treatment centres were being established.\textsuperscript{146}

J. Right to education

51. While noting the development of a new educational policy, UNCT reported that unbalanced deployment and transportation issues in remote areas and repeated displacement, resettlement and security concerns had resulted in acute teacher shortages, particularly in the conflict and tsunami-affected Northern and Eastern provinces. School fees continued to be charged despite the State policy of free education, leading to discrimination against children from poor families and facilitating corruption in school admissions. Insufficient efforts had been made to include human rights and peace education in the school curricula.\textsuperscript{147} Recommendations to address related concerns were made by CRC.\textsuperscript{148} The Secretary-General reported that the situation of schools occupied and used by the security forces had improved in 2010, although a number of schools remained affected.\textsuperscript{149}

K. Persons with disabilities

52. CESC called upon Sri Lanka to take concrete steps to implement its 2003 National Policy on Disability and to strengthen efforts to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market, including by strengthening the system of job quotas for persons with disabilities.\textsuperscript{150}

L. Indigenous peoples

53. CESC was concerned that the Veddahs had been prohibited access to their traditional hunting grounds and honey sites. It urged Sri Lanka to ensure that the Veddahs can return to and remain undisturbed on the lands from which they were evicted, in particular in the Maduru Oya reserve.\textsuperscript{151}

M. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

54. Concerns about the reported abuses faced by Sri Lankans who migrate for work, especially women, were raised by CAT,\textsuperscript{152} CESC,\textsuperscript{153} CRC,\textsuperscript{154} UNCT \textsuperscript{155} and CEDAW.\textsuperscript{156} CMW noted with concern that those who irregularly left or entered Sri Lankan territory were penalized for the crime of “illegal migration”.\textsuperscript{157} CMW recommended that current and future readmission agreements and protocol agreements concluded between Sri Lanka and host countries include appropriate procedural guarantees for migrants.\textsuperscript{158}
55. UNCT stated that the Government should be encouraged to adopt a national policy and concrete measures to ensure the protection of asylum-seekers and refugees.\textsuperscript{159}

N. Internally displaced persons

56. In 2008, the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons recommended that the Government develop a comprehensive policy addressing all aspects of internal displacement, in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.\textsuperscript{160} UNCT noted that the Government committed in the 2008 UPR to complete the process of drafting a bill on the rights of IDPs in consultation with stakeholders, but no bill had been presented to Parliament. Implementation of a joint Government-UN verification initiative for “protracted IDPs” had been slowed by Government inaction.\textsuperscript{161}

57. CRC made recommendations\textsuperscript{162} to address its deep concern about orders issued in June 2010 from the Ministry of Defence to all commanders of the Security Forces to curtail humanitarian access to virtually all United Nations agencies, international organizations and NGOs.\textsuperscript{163} UNCT reported that while restrictions for humanitarian workers on movement to and within the Northern Province were lifted in July 2011, tight control by the Government continued to be exercised on all activities implemented in the region.\textsuperscript{164}

58. UNCT explained that IDPs and IDP returnees continued to face numerous housing, land and property challenges including competing claims, unclear boundaries and lost documentation, exacerbated by the absence of a comprehensive government land policy as well as suboptimal Government capacity to effectively address these issues. The existence of gazetted and non-gazetted high security zones (HSZs) and other areas and sites occupied by the military continued to be a primary reason for protracted displacement including being stranded in transit sites. The process of releasing those zones was slow and there was no uniform or transparent policy of compensation or redress for those owning land in the zones.\textsuperscript{165} Recommendations to address these issues were made by CESCR\textsuperscript{166} and CRC, which stated that Sri Lanka should speed up the demining process so as to promptly dismantle HSZs and ensure that families can return to their area of origin.\textsuperscript{167} CEDAW also recommended that Sri Lanka provide adequate infrastructure for women IDPs and returnees, especially housing and health facilities, water and sanitation.\textsuperscript{168}

59. UNCT reported that three years after the end of the war there continued to be a significant military presence in the region which constrained the full resumption of civilian administration. The military had increasingly engaged in commercial activities, which adversely affected livelihood recovery for returnees and their right to development.\textsuperscript{169}

O. Right to development and environmental issues

60. UNCT reported that the Government has made impressive strides in the alleviation of poverty and achievement of the MDGs. Significant disparities existed between regions, especially in the estate sector in Uva Province and in the North and East.\textsuperscript{170}

61. UNCT reported that the Government, with United Nations support, had strengthened its capacity on environment management, climate change adaptation and disaster resilience. Greater emphasis needed to be placed on governmental data sharing to further improve the planning process.\textsuperscript{171}
P. Human rights and counter-terrorism

62. While noting Sri Lanka’s decision to lift the long-standing state of emergency on 31 August 2011, CAT expressed concern that 24 hours before it ended new regulations were decreed under the Prevention of Terrorism Act No. 48 of 1979 (PTA). It was concerned at the sweeping nature of these PTA regulations, which unduly restricted legal safeguards for persons suspected or charged with a terrorist or related crime, as pointed out by the HR Committee and the Special Rapporteur on torture. CAT also noted that the President continued to invoke Section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance to allow the armed forces to retain policing powers in all 25 districts. The High Commissioner strongly urged a comprehensive review of all security-related legislation and detentions. Related concerns were raised by CESCR, CRC the Special Rapporteur on torture and UNCT.

Notes

1 Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 1 April 2009 (ST/LEG/SER.E/26), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://treaties.un.org/. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Sri Lanka from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/2/LKA/2).

2 The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICERD</td>
<td>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-ICESCR</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to ICESCR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 1</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to ICCPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 2</td>
<td>Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CEDAW</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CEDAW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CAT</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-SC</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-IC</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CRC on Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRMW</td>
<td>International Convention for the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRPD</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CRPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPED</td>
<td>International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 A table in the previous UPR compilation contained the following information under Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies: Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and CPED, art. 31; Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; CPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13; Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41;
ICRMW, art. 76; CPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12; Urgent action: CPED, art.30.

Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.

International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.


Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.


ILO Convention No. 189 (2011) concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para 51, E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 39, and CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 81.

CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para 51, E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, paras 14 and 39, and CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 81.

E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, paras. 14 and 39, and CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 81.

E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 37.

Ibid., para. 39, CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 33 and CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 81.

CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 51.

CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 27. See also CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 51.

CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 27, CMW/C/LKA/CO/1, para. 20, CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 74 (a) and CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 24 (d).

E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 11.

A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, para. 137.

E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 9.

A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, para. 133.

E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 9.

CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 13.

E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 6.

CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 10.

CMW/C/LKA/CO/1, para. 13.

UNCT submission to UPR, paras. 3-4.

CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 9 (a).

E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 10.

According to article 5 of the rules of procedure for the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (ICC) Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the different classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: Voting Member (fully in
compliance with each of the Paris Principles), B: Non-Voting Member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination); C: No Status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).

For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the ICC, see A/HRC/20/10, annex.

CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 14 and E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 8.


A/HRC/13/45, p. 20.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 8.

CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 17.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 7.


A/HRC/19/55/Add.2, para. 334. See also A/HRC/16/44/Add.1, para. 2126 and A/HRC/18/19, para. 69.

A/HRC/14/19, paras. 40-43.

A/HRC/RES/19/2.

The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

CERD Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
HR Committee Human Rights Committee
CEDAW Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CAT Committee against Torture
CRC Committee on the Rights of the Child
CMW Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CED Committee on Enforced Disappearance
SPT Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture.


Abbreviations used follow those contained in the communications report of special procedures (A/HRC/18/51 and Corr.1).

A/HRC/8/3/Add.3.

A/HRC/19/61/Add.3.


A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, para. 127.

A/HRC/19/58/Rev.1, para. 505.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 19.


A/HRC/8/3/Add.3, para. 46.


CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 22.

Ibid., para. 39 (a).

Ibid., para. 33 (a).

Ibid., para. 43. See also E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 21.

Ibid., para. 31. See also UNCT submission to UPR, para. 29 and CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 20.

E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 15.

CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 16. See also CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, paras. 56 and 57.
Ibid., paras. 16 and 45.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 9.

CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 28.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 13. See also UNCT submission to UPR, para. 14.

A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, para. 137.

A/HRC/20/22/Add.4, para. 74

Ibid., para. 72. See also A/HRC/17/28/Add.1, appendix pp. 423-482.

A/HRC/18/51, p. 94. See also A/HRC/18/51, p.17.

A/HRC/20/22/Add.4, para. 72.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 16.

CRC/C/OPAC/LKA/CO/1, para. 12.

E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 28.

A/HRC/19/58/Rev.1, paras. 495-501.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 9.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 18.

CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 6. See also CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 11, and UNCT submission to UPR, para. 15.

CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 6.

Ibid., para. 8.

A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, para. 132.

CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 12.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 1.

Ibid., para. 2.

Special representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on children and armed conflict submission to UPR, p. 1. See also UNCT submission to UPR, para. 17.

SRSG on children and armed conflict submission to UPR, p. 1.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 22.

CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 20.

NCT submission to UPR, para. 23.

Ibid., paras. 11 and 44.

CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 25 a. See also, CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 22.

CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 25 d. See also, E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 25 and CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 22.

CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 27. See also CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 24, and CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 74.

CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 35 c.

CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, paras. 69 to 72. See also CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, paras. 67-68.

E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 27.


NCT submission to UPR, para. 12.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 20.

CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 30. See also CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, paras. 40-41.

Ibid., para. 7.

Ibid., para. 18.

Ibid., para. 18.

Ibid., para. 18.

Ibid., para. 32.

UNCT submission to UPR, para. 6. See also CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 19.


High Commissioner for Human Rights, statement to the 17th session of the Human Rights Council, available from:

113 A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, para. 128.
115 CRC/C/OPAC/LKA/CO/1, para. 13.
116 CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 41 (g).
117 CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 21.
118 E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 32.
120 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 25.
121 CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 77.
122 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 24.
123 E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 12.
124 NCT submission to UPR, para. 10 and CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, paras. 24 and 25 (g).
125 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 27.
126 CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 20.
127 Ibid., para. 13.
129 A/HRC/19/55/Add.2, para. 334. Also A/HRC/16/44/Add.1, para. 2126 and A/HRC/18/19, para. 69.
130 CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para 27.
131 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 28.
132 CMW/C/LKA/CO/1, para. 34.
133 See also, E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 21.
134 E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 16.
135 Ibid., para. 22.
136 CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 38. See also para. 39.
137 E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 23.
138 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 31.
139 E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 23.
140 Ibid., para. 31.
141 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 21.
142 CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, paras. 52 and 53.
143 E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 33.
144 Ibid., para. 35.
145 CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, paras. 36 and 37, E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 34, and UNCT submission to UPR, paras. 33 and 45.
146 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 34.
147 Ibid., para. 35.
148 CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, paras. 62 and 63 and CRC/C/OPAC/LKA/CO/1, paras. 24 and 25. See also, E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 36.
151 Ibid., para. 11.
152 CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 24.
154 CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, paras. 44 and 45.
155 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 38.
156 CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, paras. 42 and 43.
157 CMW/C/LKA/CO/1, para. 51.
158 Ibid., para. 48.
159 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 39. See also, CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 27 and UNCT submission to UPR, para. 40.
160 A/HRC/8/6/Add.4, para. 83(a).
161 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 41.
162 See also CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 64.
163 CRC/C/OPAC/LKA/CO/1, paras. 28 and 29.
164 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 42.
165 Ibid., para. 41.
166 E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 29.
167 CRC/C/OPAC/LKA/CO/1, para. 41. See also, CRC/C/OPAC/LKA/CO/1, para. 40.
168 CEDAW/C/LKA/CO/7, para. 41(d).
169 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 43.
170 Ibid., para. 46. See also, E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, 9 December 2010, para. 5.
171 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 47.
172 CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 10. See also CAT/C/LKA/CO/3-4, para. 11, and A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, paras. 134 and 135.
173 Available from:
174 E/C.12/LKA/CO/2-4, para. 7.
175 CRC/C/LKA/CO/3-4, paras. 9 and 10 and CRC/C/OPAC/LKA/CO/1, paras. 32 and 33.
176 A/HRC/19/61/Add.3, para. 134.
177 UNCT submission to UPR, para. 48.