



**Item2: Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka  
30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council  
Statement by Estonia, 30 September, 2015**

Mr. President,

Mr. High Commissioner,

Estonia fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

Estonia would like to thank the High Commissioner and the OHCHR for the comprehensive reports which provide a valuable contribution to the process of national reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

We recognise that the findings of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL) demonstrated reasonable grounds to believe that gross violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law and international crimes were committed by all parties during the period investigated. Estonia remains concerned of the violations, including of the rights of women and children, and hopes to see the situation improving.

Estonia fully supports the recommendations in the investigation report. We agree with the High Commissioner's views that there is a need to tackle deep-seated and institutionalized impunity which risks violations being repeated. In this regard, in our view, the suggested international component of the investigation into human rights violations together with systematic reporting would assist in guaranteeing an effective and credible accountability mechanism. As an additional guarantee against impunity and non-recurrence, Estonia invites the Government of Sri Lanka to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

With regard to reconciliation efforts, Estonia supports a wide consultation mechanism involving all parties concerned, including representatives of different ethnic groups and civil society.

Estonia welcomes the commitments of the recently elected Government of Sri Lanka regarding Human Rights, in particular on accountability, that it is "essential to uphold the rule of law and build confidence in the people of all communities of Sri Lanka". We welcome the proposals by the Government of Sri Lanka regarding the establishment a Commission for Truth, Justice, Reconciliation and Non Recurrence. Estonia further welcomes the recent visits of some Special Procedures mandate holders to Sri Lanka, and encourages cooperation of the Government with OHCHR and all special mandate holders.

Estonia is extremely pleased to see the readiness of the Sri Lankan Government to engage with the international community, including on human rights issues. We look forward to an early start of the process and the implementation of the commitments undertaken by Sri Lanka's Government.

Thank you.