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Statement by Mr. CHOI Kyong-lim
Ambassador, Republic of Korea
At the 30th Session of the Human Rights Council
September 30, 2015 Geneva

Mr. President,

As this is my first intervention at the Human Rights Council, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the ongoing work carried out to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights. It is indeed a great honor to have the opportunity to work with you towards these lofty aims and I assure you of my full commitment.

My delegation would like to thank the High Commissioner for his report on Sri Lanka and the work carried out by the OHCHR to investigate acts committed during the dark period of civil war.

I also would like to commend the OHCHR investigation team for their commitment, courage and professionalism which overcame many constraints. It is very encouraging that their findings and recommendations have been received and begun to be addressed by the positive steps put forward by the new Government of Sri Lanka. My delegation appreciates the commitments made by the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon. Mangala Samaraweera on 14 September in the Council towards achieving reconciliation and ushering in a new era for the country.

In particular, we wish to highlight the commitments by the Government of Sri Lanka in the area of accountability to establish independent, credible and empowered mechanisms for truth-seeking, justice and reparation as well as guarantees of non-recurrence.

As a country which went through a turbulent period of democratization, the Republic of Korea is fully aware of the difficulties in ensuring accountability as this requires a committed process of healing and reconciliation.

It is certainly difficult and complex work to come to terms with a difficult past and there are still daunting challenges.

However, I am certain that the Government of Sri Lanka can overcome these challenges through close cooperation with the High Commissioner and other human rights mechanisms, so that they can address remaining concerns of the international community and achieve genuine long-term reconciliation.

The Government of Sri Lanka has embarked on a journey to transform the country into one of peace, democracy and prosperity. Now, it is time for the international community to stand as solid and reliable partners in this journey.

We should encourage and enable the Government of Sri Lanka by providing necessary support to carry out efforts to ensure accountability as well as implement commitments and recommendations. The Republic of Korea remains ready to support Sri Lanka in these next steps.

Thank you. /End/