



Item 2: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' Oral Update on Sri Lanka 30 September 2015

We thank the High Commissioner and the OHCHR investigation team for their important work.

Canada recognizes the important steps taken to date in Sri Lanka following the 8 January, 2015, Presidential election. Significant progress must be made in areas such as human rights, accountability, democracy and rule of law. Canada will continue with strong unequivocal support of Sri Lankans as they pursue reconciliation.

Canada encourages the Government of Sri Lanka to continue on a path that will bring about a sustainable peace as a foundation for economic development, benefiting all individuals and communities across the country.

Canada further encourages Sri Lanka to follow up on the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission. We urge Sri Lanka to follow through on its commitment to undertake an independent investigation, including active engagement with all stakeholders when designing and implementing transitional justice processes. It is important to follow through on commitments to establish a credible mechanism to investigate allegations and ensure accountability for serious international crimes perpetrated by all parties during the conflict. We underline the importance of meaningful international involvement in such a mechanism to enhance its credibility, particularly for victims.

We welcome Sri Lanka's renewed engagement with the OHCHR and encourage further collaboration. Following through on these commitments will send a reassuring signal to Sri Lankans and to international partners, including the Commonwealth, regarding the importance that Sri Lanka places on human rights, reconciliation and accountability.