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27th Session of HRC
Statement by Pakistan
Oral Update on Sri Lanka by the High Commissioner
Under Item 2 & 10
September 24, 2014

Mr President,

Pakistan is of the firm opinion that for fruitful outcome, all country-specific decisions of the Human Rights Council should have the complete support and voluntary consensus of the country concerned. Such mutual agreement not only strengthens the spirit of constructive cooperation but also pre-empts politically motivated divisive initiatives.

In case of Sri Lanka, they have consistently and categorically rejected HRC Resolution 25/1 which had called for comprehensive investigations by OHCHR. It is important to re-emphasize that existing legal framework forming the basis for establishment of OHCHR has no such provision for an investigative mandate per se. The resolution creating this mandate was thus ill-conceived and mal-intentioned ab initio, creating an exception, which must not be quoted as precedent in future work of the Council.

We urge the Council to refrain from allocating precious human and financial resources to such confrontational and counter-productive initiatives which divert the focus of the Member States from other more pressing human rights situations meriting attention.

We also share the view that the current human rights machinery comprising special procedures, treaty bodies and UPR process is quite self-sufficient and adequate in dealing with any situation meriting investigation. Duplication of work by establishment of parallel processes through non-consensus mandates not only undermines the existing

infra-structure but also puts a question mark on its efficiency and delivery.

We think that there is a need for international community to assist and appreciate the tangible and significant progress achieved by Sri Lanka towards reconciliation and re-integration, rather than punishing it for rooting out the menace of terrorism from within its territory. It is therefore essential to understand the issue in its entirety and the enormous challenges being currently faced by Sri Lankan government.

We also call upon countries sheltering and facilitating former LTTE dissidents to ensure that such elements are not allowed to create problems amongst the expatriate Sri Lankan diaspora. The international community must act as a facilitator and be part of the solution rather than part of the problem in the country.

Mr President,

It is also a fact that Sri Lanka has always attached enormous importance to the concerns shown by the Human Rights Council. Their constant engagement with the international community is amply manifested in their interaction both at Geneva and Colombo. Visits of a number of special procedures including none other than the High Commissioner for human rights clearly and explicitly reflects the ambition of Sri Lankan Government to promote constructive engagement and their seriousness towards a positive outcome of the reconciliation process initiated in their country.

We therefore, urge the Council to never lose sight of the cardinal principles of impartiality, transparency, non-selectivity and non-discrimination and shun away attempts to promote double standards

and politicization in its working. There is a dire need to comprehend and prudently address this issue.

I thank you.

