



**National Statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative, during Interactive Dialogue on the Report of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka**  
**54<sup>th</sup> HRC Session**  
**11 September 2023**

Madam Vice President,

We take note of the High Commissioner's report and welcome Sri Lanka's observations on it.

We note the OHCHR's effort to contextualize the human rights situation in Sri Lanka from the social and **economic** lens. However, the report appears to have shied away from the human rights impacts of global economic developments and policies on the people of Sri Lanka.

Despite the cascading crises of covid-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, and growing debt burden, the fiscal, monetary and governance reforms initiated by the Sri Lanka Government have exhibited a positive impact on the overall economic revival of the country.

Pakistan expresses its resolute support and solidarity to the government and people of Sri Lanka on their path towards stabilization, recovery and development.

We appreciate the various legislative and institutional steps taken by Sri Lanka to address the issues of missing persons, reparations, terrorism, rehabilitation of former LTTE combatants. We also commend measures taken for women protection and empowerment and the steady progress that Sri Lanka continues to make in fulfilling its human rights obligations.

Sri Lanka's continued efforts against foreign sponsored terrorist network of LTTE and its ultimate success in these endeavors is a significant achievement towards peace.

Mr. President,

We also commend Sri Lanka's commitment to remain engaged with the human rights machinery, which is acknowledged in the report as well.

This commitment should serve as an impetus for a more constructive approach and appreciation by the Council, and the OHCHR in its interactions with Sri Lanka.

While encouraging Sri Lanka to stay the course on reforms and its efforts to promote rights and domestic accountability, we echo concerns over the imposition of external accountability measures that are inconsistent with the provisions of UN Charter, UNGA resolution 60/251 and the IB package.

We call on states and the international financial institutions to assist Sri Lanka in its continued efforts to tackle the multiple challenges that it faces.

I thank you!