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40th SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's report on Sri Lanka

20 March 2019

Mr. President,

We thank the distinguished FM of Sri Lanka for presenting a report on the progress made since 2017. We also welcome the constructive and cooperative approach of Government of Sri Lanka with OHCHR and the international community, with the full involvement of all stakeholders.

We appreciate in particular the establishment and operationalization of the office on Missing Persons (OMP) and Office of Reparations which supplement their efforts for reconciliation.

We also take note that Sri Lanka has ensured release of 89% of State and 92% of private lands.

Pakistan supports the efforts and action Sri Lankan Government has taken against designated terrorist groups and organizations.

Sri Lanka has overcome many challenges, particularly the grave challenge of cross-border terrorism sponsored by its neighbouring country. The Council must acknowledge this achievement.

Mr. President,

We acknowledge the fact that situation on the ground has changed. This is also demonstrated through the independence and robustness of the judicial as well as bureaucratic institutions in Sri Lanka.

We urge the international community and OHCHR to encourage and assist Sri Lanka in finding a solution, in line with its national priorities and aspirations and wishes of its people.

I thank you