



**National Statement, delivered by Amb. Bilal Ahmad, during the Interactive Dialogue on
OHCHR's Report on Sri Lanka**
57th HRC Session
9 September 2024

Mr. President,

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

While welcoming the OHCHR's overall emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights, we regret that this emphasis has been misplaced in the context of Sri Lanka. Instead, the report has overlooked Sri Lanka's considerable success in overcoming economic difficulties and understating the impact of the global debt crisis affecting large parts of the developing world.

The economic, fiscal, and governance reforms undertaken by Sri Lanka's Government have contributed to the country's economic revival and the resumption of normal economic activity. These deserve this Council's recognition and appreciation.

We echo calls for states and IFIs to assist Sri Lanka on the road to recovery.

Pakistan stands firmly in support and solidarity with the Government and people of Sri Lanka, and remains confident in the country's chosen path towards stability and development for all its citizens.

We appreciate Sri Lanka's legislative and institutional measures to address the issues of missing persons and reparations, as well as its achievements in overcoming the scourge of terrorism and rehabilitation of former LTTE combatants.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka's commitment to remain engaged with the human rights machinery is commendable. Rather than penalising Sri Lanka's constructive approach, the Council and the OHCHR should reconsider the imposition of measures that are inconsistent with the provisions of UN Charter, UNGA resolution 60/251 and the IB package.

I thank you.