

Draft decision on the Human Rights situation in Sri Lanka

1. The Human Rights Council takes note that the Sri Lankan Government announced the end of hostilities in the North of Sri Lanka;
2. The Council deplores the significant loss of human lives and suffering in the context of the current situation;
3. The Council unequivocally condemns all attacks that the LTTE launched on the civilian population and its practice of using civilians as human shields;
4. The Council urges the Government of Sri Lanka to cooperate fully with humanitarian organizations, including the UN and the ICRC by ensuring full, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to all persons in need throughout the country;
5. The Council recalls that States have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to all segments of the population, including IDPs, without discrimination; *→ red cross*
6. The Council calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure the freedom of movements of IDPs, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as other human rights such as the right to food and the right to the highest attainable level of health; *→ internally displaced persons*
7. The Council calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to facilitate the safe return of IDPs to their homes as soon as is practically possible and following on to its commitment to return 80% of IDPs for their home by the end of the year;
8. The Council calls on the government of Sri Lanka to step up its efforts for the rehabilitation of former child soldiers in cooperation with relevant UN agencies and urges the Government of Sri Lanka to take all feasible measures to ensure the demobilization and effective disarmament of children used in armed conflicts and to implement effective measures for their rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society, in particular through educational measures, taking into account the rights and the specific needs and capacities of girls;
9. The Council urges the Government of Sri Lanka to continue strengthening its activities to ensure that there is no discrimination against ethnic minorities in the enjoyment of the full range of human rights;
10. The Council welcomes the cooperation of Sri Lanka with the thematic special procedures of the Council, encourages the government to strengthen its cooperation with them in addressing the current situation;
11. The Council is gravely concerned by violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law committed during the armed conflict in Sri Lanka and their impact on the civilian population especially women, children and vulnerable groups;
12. The Council stresses the importance of combating impunity and calls on the government of Sri Lanka to investigate all allegations and bring to justice, in

accordance with international standards, perpetrators of violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, including hostage taking, torture, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and to increase its efforts to further prevent such violations;

13. The Council urges the international community to support reconstruction in Sri Lanka and calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure an inclusive process of post-conflict reconstruction;
14. The Council calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to take measures to ensure full respect for the right to freedom of opinion and expression and protect human rights defenders, and effectively investigate allegations of attacks on journalists, media personnel and human rights defenders and prosecute those responsible;
15. The Council welcomes the visit of the Secretary General of the United Nations to Sri Lanka and encourages the government of Sri Lanka to cooperate with the Council and other relevant bodies to address the human rights and humanitarian situation, including through increased technical assistance of the Office of the High Commissioner;
16. The Council requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the Council, at its 12th session, on the progress made towards the implementation of this Presidential Statement/Decision.

The European Union would like make the following statement:

The European Union has closely followed the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka, resulting from decades long conflict between the Government and the LTTE.

The European Union welcomes the convening of the Special Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, in Geneva, to address the detrimental effect of this conflict on the human rights of civilians and help prevent further suffering. The EU wishes to work with the Government of Sri Lanka and the people of Sri Lanka to ensure a sustainable political solution to the conflict in an inclusive process based on respect for human rights.

The European Union hopes that, through continued dialogue within the Human Rights Council and the positive participation of the OHCHR, the international community, the Sri Lankan government and civil society, a meaningful consensual outcome will be reached.

The European Union will continue to actively work in the Human Rights Council to resolve this situation.