



Statement by India during the Interactive Dialogue on the OHCHR Report on “Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka at the 54th Session of the Human Rights Council

Thank you, Madam Vice-President,

We have taken note of Deputy High Commissioner’s report.

2. As a close neighbour and friend of Sri Lanka, India has consistently supported Sri Lanka’s efforts towards relief, rehabilitation, re-settlement and reconstruction process in Sri Lanka since 2009. India has also provided multi-pronged support, totaling more than USD 4 billion, to Sri Lanka and its people, in last one year, to tide over its economic challenges. During the visit of President of Sri Lanka to India in July this year, both leaders issued a Vision Statement on Connectivity which, inter alia, highlighted the significance of a strong India-Sri Lanka economic partnership for inclusive & sustainable growth in all regions and for all the people of Sri Lanka and for promoting reconciliation in the country.

3. India has always been guided by two fundamental principles: (i) support to the aspirations of Tamils for equality, justice, dignity and peace; and (ii) unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka. We hope that the Government of Sri Lanka will fulfill the aspirations of Tamils for equality, justice and peace and its commitment to implement the Thirteenth Amendment and conduct Provincial Council Elections to ensure a life of respect and dignity for Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Madam Vice-President,

4. We have taken note of reaffirmation by the Government of Sri Lanka on implementation of its commitments. However, progress on the same is inadequate and we urge the Government of Sri Lanka to work meaningfully towards early implementation of its commitments to ensure that the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all its citizens are fully protected. Let me conclude by expressing our heartfelt condolences on loss of thousands of lives in the recent earthquake in Morocco.

I thank you, Madam Vice-President.