

**Peacebuilding Commission
Informal Meeting on Sri Lanka**

INDIA STATEMENT

By

**Ambassador K. Nagaraj Naidu
Deputy Permanent Representative**

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Thank You Vice Chair

Thank you for convening this meeting today and providing an opportunity for the Government of Sri Lanka to update on the progress achieved on advancing peacebuilding and transitional justice and also on the Peacebuilding Commission's engagement with the country.

We thank Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance of Sri Lanka for his comprehensive briefing on the Sri Lankan Government's policy and strategy on peacebuilding, and other briefers, including on Sri Lanka's progress in peacebuilding and how peacebuilding investments in the country continue to support building longer-term resilience.

The collaboration between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Peacebuilding Commission, operating under the principle of national ownership, is a classic example of a fruitful partnership. The development of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan (PPP) by the Sri Lankan Government in close consultation with Peacebuilding Support Office, UN Country Team and civil society representatives in November 2015, has had a multiplier effect in galvanizing on Sri Lankan government's efforts.

The continued commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to peacebuilding and transitional justice is evident from its recent decision to co-sponsor a two-year extension to implement the Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 that established the framework by which the government, victims and civil society can address the root causes of the past conflict. The establishment of the Office for Missing Persons and the resettlement of

IDPs, and the budget allocation of 11.3 billion rupees for reconciliation efforts in 2018 and 15.3 billion rupees in 2019 demonstrates the Sri Lankan governments strong commitment to lasting and sustainable peace.

The introduction of the UN Joint Programme for Peace (JPP) in Sri Lanka aimed at harnessing assistance from multiple partners for strategic, coherent and sustainable support in the areas of transitional justice, reconciliation, good governance and durable resettlement should be supported by the international community.

Sri Lanka has a special place in Indian hearts, given the time-tested bonds, going back almost to the very beginning of recorded history in the subcontinent. Our relationship is built upon the strong foundations of a shared cultural and socio-economic heritage and extensive people-to-people interactions over millennia.

India's development cooperation with Sri Lanka is unique and is built on foundations of political understanding, a historic past, geographic realities and socio-cultural empathy. India's commitment of US\$3 billion in development assistance to Sri Lanka is entirely based on the priorities set out by the Government and the people of Sri Lanka.

These development projects, guided and inspired by the rationale of South-South Cooperation, focuses especially on capacity-building, human resources development, uplifting of weaker sections as well as infrastructure development. India's portfolio of development projects encompasses virtually all major sectors of the economy, including housing, infrastructure, education, health, agriculture, fisheries, industry, handicrafts, culture and sports.

They have been widely appreciated for their transparent approach and timely implementation through recourse to local materials and manpower, in a manner that supports the local economy.

Today's meeting testifies to the convening power of the Peacebuilding Commission and its ability to serve as a platform for countries that are interested in engaging with a broad range of stakeholders on their efforts to sustain peace. We would continue to support your efforts in this regard.

Before I conclude, I would like to reiterate that India stands with Sri Lanka in its efforts to build a future that accommodates the aspirations of all sections of society for a life of equality, justice, and dignity and convey our sincere support and good wishes for Sri Lanka's journey of peace, reconciliation and progress.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman.