

Human Rights Council – 37th Session

Item 2: General Debate: Response to OHCHR Report “Promoting reconciliation,  
accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka”  
21 March 2018

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the High Commissioner for his update on Sri Lanka.

Australia acknowledges the steps Sri Lanka has taken to implement resolution 30/1 commitments and encourages Sri Lanka to continue its constructive dialogue with OHCHR.

Australia welcomes the recent appointment of Commissioners for the Office of Missing Persons, and the passage of legislation for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances. We encourage greater progress on implementing practical measures, including the release of land, repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and reparations.

Full and timely implementation of resolution 30/1 commitments, the recommendations of the Consultation Task Force on Reconciliation and the national human rights plan of action will help ensure Sri Lanka’s long-term political stability and prosperity.

Australia shares concerns about increasing attacks and hate speech against religious minorities, including most recently in the Kandy region, and recommends investigation and action against the perpetrators.

(146 words)