



National Statement, delivered by Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative, during the Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on Sri Lanka at the 46th session of Human Rights Council

(25 February 2021)

Madam President,

We take note of the High Commissioner's report, presented pursuant to HRC resolution 40/1.

Pakistan has always advocated dialogue and cooperation as preferred means to promote and protect human rights.

Accordingly, we call for continuation of consultations with the democratically elected Sri Lankan government on how best to advance the goals of accountability and reconciliation.

For too long, Sri Lanka had been a victim of terrorism aided, abetted and financed from abroad including its neighborhood.

We commend Sri Lanka's strong democratic history and its impressive socio-economic achievements. Multiethnic composition of the Parliament and the Cabinet is also encouraging.

The High Commissioner's report and this Council's deliberations should acknowledge these positive attributes.

While appreciating the assurance by the Sri Lankan government to allow funeral rites to all religious minorities amidst the ongoing COVID pandemic, we urge for early implementation of this commitment.

Madam President,

The sacrifices and socio-economic progress made by the Sri Lankan people needs to be acknowledged. The Council actions should be aimed at enabling all its citizens to reach their full development potential, to live in peace & harmony and enjoy as well as respect all human rights. The best option remains a genuine dialogue and cooperation with Sri Lanka including through technical cooperation, in accordance with the principles of impartiality and non-discrimination.

I thank you.