

0:00  
madam president excellencies I'm  
0:02  
privileged to be able to once again  
0:04  
share with this august body sri lanka's  
0:07  
experience in promoting and protecting  
0:09  
the human rights of his people in  
0:13  
accordance with universally accepted  
0:15  
standards when I'm president in the two  
0:18  
years and nine months since the end of  
0:20  
the armed conflict against terrorism and  
0:23  
the onset of peace Sri Lanka has made  
0:27  
significant progress towards recovery  
0:29  
and achieving reconciliation by  
0:34  
incrementally overcoming many challenges  
0:36  
posed to the nation and its people by  
0:40  
almost 30 years of conflict the rollback  
0:44  
an eventual abolition of emergency  
0:46  
regulations in August 2011 in tandem  
0:51  
with the gradual improvement in the  
0:53  
country's law and order situation in the  
0:56  
post-conflict phase has led to further  
0:59  
consolidation of peace it is also  
1:03  
demonstrated to the world that Sri  
1:05  
Lanka's genuine aspiration in its

1:08  
approach to achieving a piece that is  
1:11  
stable and sustainable when I am  
1:15  
president in my statement to the council  
1:17  
last September I urge that the lessons  
1:20  
learnt and Reconciliation Commission  
1:22  
this is the domestic process must be  
1:26  
given the time and space to complete its  
1:29  
mandate we continue to brief the  
1:32  
international community in Geneva of the  
1:36  
interim recommendations made by the LLRC  
1:39  
and the measures taken by the  
1:42  
interagency Advisory Committee on their  
1:45  
implementation as you know the  
1:48  
Commission has now delivered on its  
1:50  
mandate and submitted its report  
1:52  
including a series of recommendations to  
1:57  
the President of Sri Lanka the report  
2:00  
was submitted to Parliament on the 16th  
2:02  
of december two thousand eleven together  
2:06  
together with the government's position  
2:07  
on the recommendations contained in the  
2:11  
report concurrent  
2:13  
the report was made public in our view

2:16  
the report contains a detail and  
2:19  
perspective analysis of past errors  
2:21  
including those that led to the failure  
2:25  
of the peace process and several  
2:27  
recommendations for the future the  
2:30  
report is comprehensive and contains  
2:32  
detail and excess compile following  
2:36  
interviews with over 1,000 persons who  
2:40  
gave evidence before this commission and  
2:42  
over 5,000 written submissions received  
2:46  
the proceedings were largely open and  
2:49  
persons testified freely and openly  
2:52  
before the Commission in public hearings  
2:56  
unless exceptional circumstances  
2:59  
required in-camera proceedings this is  
3:03  
quite different to the Secretary  
3:04  
General's advisory panel which held  
3:07  
close no hearings with unnamed witnesses  
3:11  
who are guaranteed 20 years of anonymity  
3:14  
to secure their statements this meant  
3:17  
that the testimony could not be verified  
3:19  
or tested for its probative value the  
3:25  
LLRC report Madam President on the other

3:27  
hand places before material of the basis  
3:31  
on which the commissioners arrived at  
3:33  
their conclusions which are substantive  
3:36  
and verifiable the Commission has dealt  
3:39  
with and made recommendations on a whole  
3:42  
gamut of issues including aspects of  
3:46  
accountability something with several of  
3:49  
our partners and in teleporters have  
3:52  
failed to acknowledge the resettlement  
3:54  
of IDPs the rehabilitation and  
3:57  
reintegration of X competence of the LTT  
4:00  
the terrorist organization the detention  
4:03  
of suspects bringing an end to the  
4:06  
possession of unauthorized weapons the  
4:10  
deployment of security forces land  
4:12  
issues issues with regard to restitution  
4:15  
implementation of the language foreign  
4:18  
policy socio-economic and livelihood  
4:20  
development administrative issues and on  
4:24  
the need to arrive at a national  
4:26  
sensors with regard to fulfilling the  
4:29  
legitimate aspirations of all  
4:32  
communities living in Sri Lanka I am

4:36  
happy Madam President to observe that  
4:39  
advances have been made with regard to  
4:41  
many of the recommendations in the  
4:43  
report the government will continue to  
4:46  
address these issues in a systematic and  
4:49  
thorough manner some of the areas in  
4:52  
which gains have been made include the  
4:55  
resettlement of IDPs demining  
4:58  
rehabilitation of ex combatants  
5:00  
implementation of the language policy  
5:03  
the recruitment of tamil-speaking police  
5:06  
officers the removal of the military  
5:09  
from facilitation of Civil  
5:11  
Administration in the North making  
5:15  
available land previously used for  
5:18  
security purposes for resettlement and  
5:20  
return and carrying out a comprehensive  
5:23  
sensors in the northern province there  
5:27  
are also other recommendations in the  
5:29  
report which need to be comprehensively  
5:31  
address and we are committed to doing so  
5:33  
you may have noted that the commission  
5:37  
of first detailed observations and

5:39  
recommendations on international  
5:42  
humanitarian law issues relating to the  
5:45  
final phases of the conflict the report  
5:48  
endorses the position that the  
5:50  
protection of civilian life was a key  
5:52  
factor in the formulation of policy for  
5:56  
carrying out military operations and  
5:58  
that the deliberate targeting of  
6:00  
civilians from no part of it this was  
6:04  
and remains the position of the  
6:05  
government I wish to inform this council  
6:09  
that our enumeration to ascertain the  
6:11  
number of persons in the northern  
6:13  
province and to scientifically identify  
6:16  
the number of persons who lost their  
6:18  
lives in the conflict is now complete  
6:21  
and a detailed analysis will be no made  
6:24  
known in the near future due to the  
6:28  
unlawful presence of the LTT no proper  
6:31  
sensors could be carried out Madam  
6:33  
President since 1981 30 years ago among  
6:38  
the people not accounted for  
6:40  
when classified as deceased we count

6:43  
people killed as a result of the  
6:44  
conflict including those who have Kerry  
6:47  
dance for the LTT civilians killed by  
6:50  
the Ltd as they try to flee from the  
6:53  
hostage situation this is documented  
6:55  
purses caught in the crossfire and  
6:59  
people who migrated out of the northern  
7:01  
province either to the south and who  
7:04  
left by sea to India or other countries  
7:08  
seeking asylum we need the assistance of  
7:12  
receiving countries to ascertain how  
7:15  
many persons they have admitted as a  
7:18  
further step the government has decided  
7:20  
to put in place a structure to further  
7:23  
analyze and verify the data gathered in  
7:27  
order to arrive at definite conclusions  
7:29  
as to civilian mortalities and  
7:32  
casualties one thing is certain the  
7:35  
story of tens of thousands of civilian  
7:38  
deaths that supposedly occurred during  
7:41  
the final phase of the humanitarian  
7:44  
operation is very clearly proved to be a  
7:47  
gross exaggeration and a deliberate

7:51  
misrepresentation of fact Madam  
7:55  
President the material placed before  
7:56  
this commission points to several  
7:59  
specific episodes which in their view  
8:02  
warrant further investigation the  
8:05  
government is committed to a mechanism  
8:07  
for gathering and assessing factual  
8:09  
evidence relating to the episodes  
8:11  
indicator buttressed by a strong  
8:14  
investigative arm the findings thus  
8:18  
arrived at will form the basis of a  
8:21  
decision on whether criminal proceedings  
8:24  
can be instituted the material yielded  
8:28  
by this investigation will be placed  
8:30  
before the Attorney General for a  
8:32  
decision in respect of instituting  
8:35  
criminal proceedings way of warrenton  
8:37  
the Attorney General is currently see  
8:40  
stuff and is studying the  
8:42  
recommendations in the report with  
8:45  
regard to allegations of violations of  
8:47  
international humanitarian law military  
8:50  
courts of inquiry in keeping with

8:52  
international practice  
8:54  
I might add have commenced  
8:56  
investigations into specific incidents  
8:59  
identified by the domestic commission  
9:02  
the Mandate of the court of inquiry is  
9:05  
to investigate inter alia civilian  
9:08  
casualties and the channel for video  
9:11  
footages including whether any  
9:13  
deliberate and intentional attacks were  
9:17  
made by the Army on civilians with a  
9:20  
view to causing them harm or damage on  
9:22  
any hospitals or no fire zones if so the  
9:27  
persons responsible for any such  
9:28  
activity and to make recommendations  
9:31  
with regard to the measures that should  
9:34  
be taken with regard to such persons  
9:36  
Madam President in respect of the  
9:39  
controversial channel for footage the  
9:42  
court of inquiry has been specifically  
9:44  
mandated to ascertain whether any member  
9:48  
of the Armed Forces was involved in the  
9:51  
events depicted authentic our device and  
9:54  
to recommend the measures to be taken a

9:56  
similar court of inquiry has been  
9:58  
convened by the Sri Lankan Navy to  
10:01  
inquire into relevant relevant  
10:03  
allegations as you can observe Madam  
10:06  
President Sri Lanka has taken clear and  
10:08  
definite steps towards implementation of  
10:12  
the recommendations of the domestic  
10:14  
process barely two months after the  
10:17  
report was made public barely two months  
10:19  
after the report was made public we have  
10:22  
evolved a mechanism to look into  
10:25  
accountability issues raised in the LLRC  
10:28  
report both in the form of civil and  
10:31  
military structures this is coupled with  
10:33  
a time-bound plan in the form of the  
10:36  
National Human Rights Action Plan  
10:38  
catering to a number of other  
10:41  
recommendations to move Sri Lanka  
10:43  
towards comprehensive reconciliation  
10:46  
Madam President as we have done in the  
10:48  
past we will keep the council informed  
10:51  
of progress when we pass is participate  
10:54  
in the sessions sessions in

10:55  
june-september and in the course of the  
10:58  
UPR in October we have already extended  
11:03  
an invitation to the High Commissioner  
11:05  
for Human Rights to visit Sri Lanka  
11:07  
I might add that there is already a  
11:10  
senior advisor of the high  
11:12  
commissioner's office working in Sri  
11:14  
Lanka from as far back as 2005 the  
11:19  
senior adviser was in place even during  
11:21  
the country and is still there in the  
11:23  
post-conflict phase Madam President in  
11:27  
the light of this commitment by Sri  
11:28  
Lanka there is no justification or  
11:32  
urgency whatsoever in floating a  
11:35  
resolution calling for the  
11:37  
implementation of the LLRC  
11:39  
recommendations and engagement with the  
11:42  
High Commissioner when this has already  
11:44  
been effectively undertaken by the  
11:47  
government what we now need from the  
11:51  
international community's objectivity in  
11:53  
assessing Sri Lanka suffers more than  
11:57  
anything we need to ensure that the

11:59  
process is allowed to advance unimpeded  
12:02  
Madam President what protection can we  
12:07  
have again selectivity and double  
12:10  
standards from those who have eyes but  
12:14  
refused to see and those who have ears  
12:18  
and refuse to hear but continue to  
12:23  
insist on their pound of flesh we do not  
12:28  
need unwarranted incursions that will  
12:31  
compromise successful implementation  
12:34  
such interference by way of redundant  
12:37  
resolutions before this council would  
12:40  
only undermine the sentiments of this  
12:43  
council as expressed Madam President in  
12:46  
the decisive adoption of the special  
12:49  
session resolution on Sri Lanka in 2009  
12:52  
in keeping with the recommendations of  
12:55  
the LLRC the military has been withdrawn  
12:58  
from aspects of civilian life and are  
13:01  
now confined to security related matters  
13:04  
in accordance with established practice  
13:07  
of post-conflict decommissioning the  
13:10  
government has institutionalized the  
13:13  
process with legislative oversight to

13:16  
continuously record specific details on  
13:19  
the number of weapons  
13:21  
covered in order to bring about an end  
13:24  
to the possession of unauthorized  
13:25  
weapons this will have important  
13:28  
implications for human security in  
13:31  
general and positively impact on the law  
13:34  
and order situation as well economic  
13:37  
development Madam President continues to  
13:39  
play a pivotal role in the  
13:41  
reconciliation post pressure process and  
13:43  
the return to normalcy massive  
13:46  
infrastructure and development programs  
13:48  
underway in the former conflict-affected  
13:50  
areas of the northern and eastern  
13:52  
provinces the peace we have won at such  
13:56  
cost to the nation and its people will  
13:59  
not be a genuine peace until and unless  
14:02  
the legitimate aspirations of all  
14:05  
communities are met in a substantive and  
14:08  
satisfactory manner the consensus  
14:10  
formula to the national question thus  
14:13  
evolved needs to be democratic pragmatic

14:18  
and homegrown in order to be sustainable  
14:20  
as a central feature of the government's  
14:23  
approach to evolving such a process a  
14:25  
parliamentary select committee is  
14:28  
contemplated to achieve multi-party  
14:31  
consensus in respect of constitutional  
14:34  
changes to fill fulfil the legitimate  
14:37  
aspirations of the Sri Lankan people  
14:39  
enabling them to work in unison with a  
14:43  
sense of national identity for a better  
14:45  
tomorrow parallel with this multi-party  
14:49  
mechanism the government has commenced  
14:50  
bilateral discussions with Tamil  
14:53  
political parties as well as Muslim  
14:55  
representation we are a multicultural  
14:57  
multi-ethnic multi lingual multi  
15:00  
religious society