

**Statement by Delegation of Sri Lanka following the  
Presentation of the Report of the Working Group on  
Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**

My delegation would like to thank the Working Group for its positive evaluation at paragraph 491 of its report expressing appreciation to the Government of Sri Lanka for the amount of information that the Government has provided and for its efforts to investigate and clarify past cases. As a result of the close cooperation with the Working Group, the number of un-clarified past cases has decreased substantially. This has also enabled us to address the misconception that Sri Lanka is a country with a large case load of disappearances without clarifications.

As a result of this constructive cooperation with the Working Group, adequate domestic mechanisms are in place to handle allegations and inquire into disappearances. Cases of alleged disappearances could be reported to the police stations as well as to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka including its Jaffna branch, or even as an additional measure, to the retired High Court Judge who was appointed last Friday by the President of Sri Lanka to receive representations and to inquire into allegations of abductions, disappearances and killings in all parts of the country.

The Ministry of Human Rights even intervened recently with the Treasury to provide additional funds at the request of Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka to enable it to fulfill its mandate in this area.

As a result of a decision taken by the Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights, the Presidential Directive on the rights of persons arrested or detained was reissued recently and wide publicity was given to these directives in all media in all three languages. The Inter-ministerial Committee has also set up a task force consisting of members of the civil society to undertake surprise visits to ascertain whether these directives are being adhered to by the police stations.

Given the short time for interventions today, we would also like to invite any interested delegations to meet with us if they have an interest in any specific case.