



**27th Session of the Human Rights Council
Statement by Sri Lanka- Item 5
General Debate
17 September 2014**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka takes note of the Report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Draft United Nations Declaration on the Right to Peace on its second session (A/HRC/27/63). We are pleased to have participated constructively and shared our views on the draft UN Declaration on the Right to Peace during the Session .

As a co-sponsor of the HRC resolutions 17/16 and 20/15 which led to the establishment of the open-ended intergovernmental Working Group on the Draft United Nations Declaration on the Right to Peace, Sri Lanka believes that the preservation of the right of peoples to peace and promotion of peace constitutes a fundamental obligation of States.

We welcome the progress made through constructive engagement by the Working Group on the content and language of the draft Declaration on right to peace. As stated during the Working Group Session, we believe that the draft declaration should refer to the important elements of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of sovereign states as stipulated by the UN Charter. Further it should pay due recognition and ensure support for Right to Development.

As stated by my delegation during the Working Group Sessions, the sacrosanct responsibility of the State to protect the right to life of her peoples from all forms and manifestations of the heinous crimes of terrorism is an important element of the right to peace. This element is of paramount importance not only to foster friendly relations among States but also to safeguard the territorial integrity and security of States.

In conclusion, Mr. President , Sri Lanka believes that the only way to achieve success in the process of drafting a Declaration on right to peace should be through consensus, based on established principles of international law.

Thank You.