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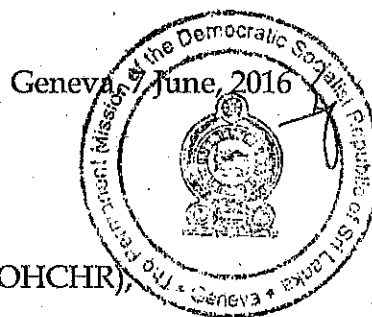
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The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee), and has the honour to refer to the Permanent Mission's communication dated 16 October 2015 submitting follow-up information with reference to Para. 25 of the Committee's Concluding Observations on the 5th Periodic Report of Sri Lanka (CCPR/C/LKA/CO/5), which requested the State Party to submit relevant information on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations made in paragraphs 5, 14, 15 and 21 of the Concluding Observations.

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka wishes to submit herewith an additional update by the Government of Sri Lanka to its 5th Periodic Report under the ICCPR, considered by the Committee in October 2014.

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka would appreciate an acknowledgement of receipt of this communication.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee the assurances of its highest consideration.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),
Secretariat of the Human Rights Committee,
Geneva.

Additional Update to the Fifth Periodic Report of Sri Lanka under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

1. The Government of Sri Lanka wishes to submit the following update to the United Nations Human Rights Committee on the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The Human Rights Committee (CCPR) considered the Fifth Periodic Report of Sri Lanka (CCPR/C/LKA5/) under the ICCPR on 7th and 8th October 2014. Its Concluding Observations were adopted on 27th October 2014 (CCPR/C/LKA/CO/5). Sri Lanka submitted an Update to its Fifth Periodic Report in October 2015 detailing certain developments in Sri Lanka from January to October 2015, which positively impacted on the implementation of the provisions of the ICCPR.
2. The present Additional Update seeks to provide information on further developments that have taken place up to June 2016. These developments positively impact on the implementation of the provisions of the ICCPR and serve to address some of the concerns and recommendations of the CCPR raised in its concluding observations of October 2014.

Derogations

3. On 30th May 2000, Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency and communicated derogations from Articles 9 (2), 9 (3), 12 (1), 12 (2), 14 (3), 17 (1), 19 (2), 21 and 22 of the ICCPR.
4. These derogations were considered necessary in the context of the armed conflict between the state security forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The armed conflict and the terrorist tactics deployed by the LTTE created a public emergency that threatened the life of the nation.
5. On 9th June 2010, all derogations except the derogation from Article 9(3) were terminated through a communication to the UN Secretary General. The derogations were terminated in the context of new Emergency Regulations (officially proclaimed by

Gazette Extraordinary No. 1651/24 dated 2nd May 2010) promulgated under section 5 of the Public Security Ordinance (PSO).

6. On 19th November 2015, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) notified the Secretary-General of the termination of all derogations previously notified under the ICCPR. Sri Lanka therefore has no derogations currently in operation under Article 4 of the ICCPR.

The right to life

7. Article 13(4) of the Constitution provides:

No person shall be punished with death or imprisonment except by order of a competent court, made in accordance with procedure established by law.

8. The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka has recognised that the right to life is implicitly guaranteed under the Constitution by virtue of Article 11, which guarantees the freedom from torture, read with Article 13(4). In *Sriyani Silva v. Iddamalgoda* [2003] 2 Sri.L.R. 63, the Court held: 'Expressed positively, that provision [Article 13(4)] means that a person has a right to live, unless a court orders otherwise. Thus Article 13(4), by necessary implication, recognises that a person has a right to life.' The Court subsequently held that when a person has been deprived of his or her right to life, his or her next of kin would have *locus standi* to file a fundamental rights application before the Supreme Court and sue the wrongdoers. Hence the Constitution implicitly recognises the right of persons to be free from extra-judicial killings.
9. Since submitting its Fifth Periodic Report, the GOSL has made further investigations into cases concerning the extra-judicial killing of persons. For example, the pre-trial non-summary inquiry relating to the killing of five youths in Trincomalee in 2006—consequent to the proceedings having been instituted on the advice of the Attorney General—is now before the Magistrate of Trincomalee (Case No. 4634/PC/2013). All available lay witnesses have been summoned and their depositions recorded. Lay witnesses currently residing overseas have been officially summoned to give evidence at the Magistrate Court inquiry. Moreover, the GOSL has informed certain witnesses

through its Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva that they will be afforded maximum safeguards under the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witness Act No. 4 of 2015 including airport-to-airport security. It is noted that section 31 of the Act provides for witnesses to give testimony through audio-video linkage from an authorised 'remote location' within Sri Lanka instead of his or her personal attendance before a Court.

10. Meanwhile, investigations into the killing of seventeen aid workers of *Action Contre La Faim* (ACF) is being conducted by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Police. In December 2015, the CID took into its custody 209 firearms officially assigned to the 1st Commando Regiment of the Sri Lanka Army and submitted them to the Government Analyst for forensic and ballistic analysis together with empty firearm cartridges recovered from the crime scene. The CID has recorded statements from 32 more Army personnel including the officer who had commanded the first Commando Regiment, which had been sent as reinforcements to Muttur on the day of the incident.
11. While the death penalty remains on the statute books of Sri Lanka, no person has been executed upon judicial order within the territory of Sri Lanka since 1976. Furthermore, the GOSL has taken a policy decision to vote in favour of the periodic UN General Assembly Resolution on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

Equality and non-discrimination

12. Article 12(1) of the Sri Lankan Constitution guarantees to all persons the right to equality before the law and equal protection of the law. The Supreme Court has interpreted this clause expansively to impose a duty on executive and administrative officers of the state to exercise power in a non-arbitrary manner. The Court in *Karunadasa v. Unique Gem Stones Ltd* [1997] 1 Sri.L.R 256 expanded the scope of this right to include the right to receive reasons for decisions made by an executive and administrative authority.
13. Article 12(2) of the Constitution guarantees to all persons the right to non-discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion,

place of birth or any such grounds. This constitutional guarantee specifically operates as a safeguard to prevent any legal or factual discrimination between women and men. Moreover, Article 27(6) of the Constitution provides that the State shall ensure equality of opportunity to citizens, so that no citizen shall suffer any disability on the ground of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion or occupation.

14. The GOSL continues to endeavour to bring all personal laws currently protected under the Constitution in line with the provisions of Article 12 and international human rights standards. With such a view, a Bill to amend the Land Development Ordinance to recognise equal rights among men and women to land succession has been submitted to Parliament. The Bill has been referred to Provincial Councils for their views in compliance with constitutional requirements and is currently under review.
15. The Supreme Court has exclusive jurisdiction to hear alleged cases of discrimination by executive and administrative functionaries of the state. However, a person may seek a remedy before the District Court where a private actor discriminates against him or her. Such a remedy is made available under the Civil Procedure Code No. 12 of 1895, in which section 5 defines a cause of action to include 'the denial of a right', which may include a fundamental right.
16. Sri Lanka is committed to taking consistent and sustainable pro-equality and pro-empowerment policies learning from experience and best practices elsewhere. Women, as particularly vulnerable group throughout the country and region, receive specific focus in this regard. It is therefore noted that Article 12(4) of the Constitution specifically provides for affirmative action benefitting women. It provides that nothing in Article 12(1) to (3) shall prevent special provision being made by law, subordinate legislation or executive action for the advancement of women, children or disabled persons.
17. Sri Lanka's most significant achievements have been in the health and education sectors. Due to consistent policies upholding free education and compulsory enrolment in school followed by successive governments, women achieve a high level of education. Such initiatives have propelled women to secure upward mobility in society and in the workplace. Women currently enjoy equal opportunities and choices, remain

politically active and have the ability to engage decision-makers at the highest level. Women's participation in the formulation of government policy, holding public office and performing public functions at all levels of government has increased. The Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS) is the largest service in the Public Service. The number of women in the SLAS increased from 7.65 percent in 1979 to 35.4 percent in 2007 and to 61.23 percent in 2014. In the Sri Lanka Planning Service, the percentage of women is 47.63 percent, an increase from 28.8 percent in 1993. In the Sri Lanka Foreign Service, the percentage of women is 47.5 percent, an increase from 29.7 percent in 1993. However, the GOSL has recognised the need for an increase in sustained investment targeted at gender equality and social protection.

18. It has been observed that political representation by women at the national, provincial and local government level is statistically low. The government is committed to increasing this number through legislative reform and increased social awareness. The Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 1 of 2016 enacted on 9th February 2016 provides for a 25% mandatory quota for female representation in local government. A Women's Caucus was established in Parliament in 2006 comprising women parliamentarians. This group continues to work towards promoting women's political participation and safeguarding women's rights and gender equality. Both the manifesto of the President and the Memorandum of Understanding between the two main political parties in power i.e. the United National Party and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, commit to legislatively guaranteeing an increase in female political representation. Such reforms will aim to increase women's political representation in Parliament, provincial councils and local government and will be included in the constitutional reform process undertaken by the GOSL.
19. Meanwhile, the government is in the process of developing a comprehensive national policy on reconciliation through Office of National Unity and Reconciliation established on 15 May 2015. Former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga heads this new Office, which possesses a broad mandate to advance reconciliation, women's empowerment, ensure equality and non-discrimination, and guarantee the non-recurrence of conflict in Sri Lanka.

20. Furthermore, on 1st June 2016, the GoSL issued a circular lifting the restrictions placed in March 2011 on the issuance of passports to Sri Lankan citizens resident abroad who were compelled to leave Sri Lanka at different times due to conflict or political reasons. The Government of Sri Lanka is committed to uphold the right of all Sri Lankan citizens to have a passport and to ensure their freedom of movement and travel, irrespective of their political beliefs. The new instructions issued in June 2016 aim to guarantee the above right.

Language rights

21. The Sri Lankan Constitution provides parity of status to the languages of the majority and the minorities. Article 14(1)(f) and Articles 18 to 25 of Chapter IV of the Constitution deal with language rights of individuals. Article 19 specifies that both Sinhala and Tamil are national languages, while English remains the link language. Meanwhile, Article 22 of the Constitution specifies that Sinhala and Tamil shall be the languages of administration throughout Sri Lanka, and that Sinhala shall be the language of administration to be used for the maintenance of public records and the transaction of all business by public institutions of all the provinces of Sri Lanka, other than the Northern and Eastern Provinces where Tamil shall be so used.
22. These constitutional provisions reflect the demographic realities of the country where a majority of the inhabitants of the North and East speak Tamil. Similarly, according to Article 24(2) of the Constitution, any party or applicant or any person legally entitled to represent such party may initiate proceedings, and submit to court pleadings and other documents, and participate in the proceedings in court, in either Sinhala or Tamil. Any judge, juror, party or applicant or any person legally entitled to represent such party, who is not conversant with the language used in a court, is entitled to interpretation and to translation into Sinhala or Tamil. Moreover, Article 21(1) of the Constitution recognises the right of persons to be educated in either of the national languages and imposes a duty on the State to publish all laws and subordinate legislation in all three languages. There is also a positive duty imposed on the State pursuant to Article 18(4) of the Constitution to enact legislation and provide adequate facilities for the implementation of the Chapter pertaining to language rights.

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23. The Official Languages Commission Act No.18 of 1991 provides that the failure of a public servant to comply with the provisions of the Act is an offence punishable by law. Furthermore, a ten-year National Plan for a Trilingual Sri Lanka was launched in January 2012. In line with this Plan, the GOSL has initiated a programme to make all public sector workers bilingual—with the ability to converse in both Sinhala and Tamil. Civil servants and police officers have been recruited and trained to serve the public in the North and the East in the language of their choice.

Freedom of religion

24. Article 10 of the Constitution guarantees the freedom of thought, conscience and religion and is framed as an absolute right that is not subject to any restrictions. Article 14(1)(e) of the Constitution provides: 'Every citizen is entitled to the freedom, either by himself or in association with others, and either in public or in private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching'. According to Article 15(7), the right contained in Article 14(1)(e) may be restricted only on the grounds of 'national security, public order and the protection of public health or morality, or for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedom of others, or of meeting the just requirements of the general welfare of a democratic society'.
25. The Penal Code No. 11 of 1887 contains several provisions pertaining to the protection of religious rights. These include section 290, which prohibits injuring or defiling a place of worship; section 291, which prohibits disturbing a religious assembly; and section 291B, which prohibits deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class, by insulting its religion or religious beliefs. Moreover, the ICCPR Act No. 56 of 2007 criminalises advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.
26. The GOSL maintains a zero tolerance policy on acts in violation of the law including those targeting minority religious groups. Thus laws will be strictly enforced on those committing violence against religious groups or practicing hate speech. The GOSL notes that several incidents concerning the targeting of the Muslim community have been reported during the post-war period. The most serious incident in this respect is the

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violence that occurred in Aluthgama in June 2014. Police investigations have begun with respect to reported violence targeting persons belonging to minority religious communities, and perpetrators will be prosecuted based on the evidence gathered. Meanwhile, the GOSL is currently implementing programmes through the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation to foster religious harmony and strengthen inter-faith dialogue.

Freedom of expression

27. The freedom speech and expression including publication is guaranteed under Article 14(1)(a) of the Constitution. The Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution introduced a new fundamental right—on the right to information—into the Fundamental Rights Chapter of the Constitution. Under the new right, every citizen shall have the right to access any information as provided for by law, being information that is required for the exercise or protection of a citizen's right.
28. Moreover, a Right to Information Bill was drafted and published by Minister of Parliamentary Reforms and Mass Media in the official gazette on 18th December 2015. The Bill was drafted in consultation with civil society experts, the media community and university academics. The Supreme Court thereafter provided a determination on the constitutionality of the Bill, and its opinion is now being considered in revising the current Bill. The Bill will then be debated in Parliament shortly. Once enacted, the new law will substantially advance the freedom of speech and expression and media freedom in Sri Lanka. Under the law, every public authority would be obliged to appoint an Information Officer to provide information on request. Moreover, the new law will call upon public authorities to proactively disclose information in order to advance a culture of openness. The new law will also establish an independent Right to Information Commission to ensure the implementation of the new law and to receive and dispose of complaints from citizens.
29. The climate of media freedom in Sri Lanka has improved significantly since January 2015. All restrictions on news websites were lifted in January 2015 following presidential instructions sent to the Telecommunication Regulation Commission. Accordingly, news websites, including those critical of the GOSL, can operate freely.

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without restrictions. Furthermore, restrictions on the freedom of journalists including foreign journalists to visit and report on issues throughout the country including in the North and East have been lifted. For example, a journalist from the United Kingdom-based Channel 4 news agency was afforded unrestricted access to travel and speak in Jaffna in late January 2016 at the Jaffna Literary Festival.

30. Law enforcement authorities are currently investigating past attacks on journalists. For example, steady progress is being made in the proceedings on the disappearance of journalist Prageeth Eknaligoda, who went missing in January 2010. The inquiry conducted in the Homagama Magistrate's Court has led to the arrest of certain suspects. Moreover, the investigation into the assassination of Lasantha Wickrematunge, chief editor of the Sunday Leader newspaper in 2009 has been reopened with a firm commitment to bring perpetrators to justice.

Freedom of assembly, association and movement

31. The freedom of peaceful assembly, association and movement are respectively guaranteed by Articles 14(1)(b)(c) and (h) of the Constitution. Moreover, Article 14(1)(d) guarantees to all citizens the right to form and join trade unions.
32. The freedom of peaceful assembly was guaranteed to protests held by concerned citizens with respect to a number of public issues including sexual abuse of women and children and the discovery of the truth regarding missing relatives. These protestors were permitted to express their concerns in public and were often provided police protection. Moreover, citizens freely staged vigils on 19th May 2015 commemorating the grave loss of life due to the armed conflict that ended on the same date in 2009. Meanwhile, restrictions with respect to the freedom of movement in Sri Lanka have been lifted on account of the discontinuation of a state of emergency in August 2011. Any remaining restrictions relate to areas suspected of containing unexploded ordnance.
33. Several student protests were staged in the post-January 2015 period, mainly due to disagreement over education reforms, and particularly the licensing of private education institutions. The GOSL recognises the freedom of all citizens, including students, to

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peaceful assembly and association. Certain excesses that reportedly took place in October 2015 in the course of the Sri Lanka Police's response to a student protest is currently under investigation by the National Police Commission. The Commission is an independent body mandated to oversee disciplinary matters pertaining to the Sri Lanka Police.

34. Moreover, investigations into the incident at Rathupaswala in August 2013—where citizens and armed forces clashed when local residents protested the pollution of drinking water—are currently ongoing. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) has completed an inquiry into the incident and has handed over its findings and recommendations to the GOSL, based on which further action is being taken. Moreover, an army inquiry into the incident is ongoing.

Freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention

35. Articles 13(1) and (2) of the Sri Lankan Constitution guarantees to all persons the freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention.
36. This freedom is lawfully restricted in terms of Article 15(7) of the Constitution, which provides for restrictions prescribed by law in the interests of national security. Accordingly, the Public Security Ordinance No. 25 of 1947 (PSO) and the Prevention of Terrorism Act No. 48 of 1979 lawfully restricts rights contained in Article 13(1) and (2). Both these laws permit the Executive to issue detention orders on a person suspected of offences under these laws. These detention orders are, however, subject to judicial review, thereby providing an additional layer of protection to persons arrested and detained under these laws.
37. In December 2015, the GOSL took a firm decision that persons detained for having allegedly committing offences under the PTA, the PSO and the presently repealed Emergency Regulations without formal charges being preferred against them should be brought to zero as soon as possible. In the alternative, these persons will be enlarged on bail pending the completion of criminal investigations and decisions on the institution of criminal proceedings. As at January 2016, one person arrested on 27 December 2015 was held in executive detention under the PTA. Seventeen cases remained where

criminal investigations have been completed and a decision by the Attorney General on whether to file indictments was pending. Moreover, 53 persons are in remand custody pending trial and 217 persons are facing trial while on bail. At present, a High Court in Colombo has been assigned to exclusively dispose of cases filed in terms of the PTA and the repealed Emergency Regulations. Another special High Court in Anuradapura also deals with cases under the PTA with a view to expedite the disposal of those cases.

38. 12,000 ex-combatants who surrendered to security forces following the conclusion of the war underwent a one-year rehabilitation programme to assist reintegration. Approximately 12,000 ex-combatants benefited from this programme. Meanwhile, a further 2,012 ex-combatants who were arrested for their direct involvement in terrorist activities, have subsequently opted to undergo voluntary rehabilitation, which includes vocational skills development, in lieu of prosecution.
39. The GOSL made a commitment in September 2015 to review, and if necessary, repeal and replace the PTA. It accordingly undertook a comprehensive review of the PTA with a view to assess its compatibility with international human rights standards. Following this review, the Sri Lanka Law Commission, an independent statutory body, was invited to assess the existing PTA and recommended suitable amendments to bring it in line with international human rights standards.
40. Following the communication of the Law Commission's assessment of the PTA, the government decided to appoint a Committee to develop the policy and the legal framework of a new law on national security for Sri Lanka. The Committee has identified the following objectives to be achieved by the new law:
 - To ensure that the proposed law will conform with Sri Lanka's obligations in terms of international law relating to counter terrorism and other related international norms and standards
 - To ensuring that the proposed law is compliant with International Human Rights Law and other applicable human rights norms and standards
 - To ensure that the proposed law is consistent with principles of democracy, good governance and the rule of law

- To provide a comprehensive legislative framework to efficaciously and comprehensively respond to contemporary manifestations and threats of terrorism and other attacks on national security and public order, and maintenance of essential services and supplies
- To develop a legislative structure, which will enable effective action to be expeditiously taken in instances of emergencies (both natural and man-made), and serious threats to: (i) national and public security, (ii) public order and (iii) maintenance of essential services and supplies
- To create a legislative framework that could be effectively used to prevent the use of Sri Lankan territory and Sri Lankan nationals to launch acts of terrorism and commit terrorist acts in foreign countries

41. Meanwhile, legislative reform has been undertaken to guarantee to all arrested persons the right to consult an attorney-at-law. Regulations (published in Gazette No. 1758/36 dated 18th May 2012) issued by the Inspector General of Police under section 55 of the Police Ordinance provide that a lawyer representing the interest of a suspect held in police custody has the professional entitlement to meet with the Officer in Charge of the police station in which the suspect is being held, to ascertain the reasons for the arrest, and to make representation to the police officer on behalf of the suspect. Hence the right of a suspect to see a lawyer immediately after an arrest is effectively safeguarded through these regulations.

42. In the meantime, in May 2016 the HRCSL issued Directives to be followed by officers arresting persons under the PTA to ensure the fundamental rights of persons arrested or detained and to ensure such persons are treated humanely. The Directives clearly state that torture, cruel and inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment is an offence and prohibited at all times. The Directives are based on the Directives on Arrest and Detention issued by previous Heads of State and binding human rights law standards. According to the Directives a person arrested or detained under the PTA is afforded safeguards, relating to the process with regard to the arrest, the process following the arrests and special measures for the arrests of women and persons under 18 years of age.

43. Moreover, a Cabinet Paper prepared by the Ministry of Justice to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on 20th January 2016. The approved draft law guarantees the right to consult an attorney-at-law immediately following the recording of the first statement by the police and before he is produced before a Magistrate. Furthermore, the draft law guarantees access to legal aid where the arrested person is unable to afford legal counsel. The government believes that Parliament will debate and enact the amendment during the latter part of 2016.
44. The Cabinet of Ministers also approved proposals to introduce a new Prisons Administration Act, which will contribute towards the better administration of prisons and address, to some extent, the problem of prison overcrowding. The new law includes provisions for the detention of prisoners, on the custody, care and rehabilitation of the prisoners and on the promotion of universally accepted principles and practices in the treatment and management of prisoners. The new law will also establish three independent visiting committees: the Board of Prison Visitors, the Local Prison Visiting Committee and the Special Visiting Committee.
45. As manual searching can raise problems concerning the human dignity of inmates, a policy decision was taken to introduce equipment to search prisoners and their belongings. The Department of Prisons has decided to purchase Body Scanners and Parcel Scanners for this purpose and have installed machines in three major prisons in Sri Lanka.
46. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Justice, with the technical assistance of the ICRC, has taken the initiative to establish a Special Task Force to identify the legal and judicial causes of prison overcrowding with the participation of several vital stakeholders who are responsible for the smooth functioning of the judicial system and prison administration.

Individual communications under the First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR

47. Sri Lanka is party to the First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, and recognises the competence of the UN Human Rights Committee to receive and consider individual complaints under the ICCPR.

48. The Supreme Court in *Nallaratnam Singarasa v. Attorney General*, SC Spl (LA) No.182/99 (2006), however, held:

The accession to the Optional Protocol in 1997 by the then President and Declaration made under Article 1 is inconsistent with the provisions of the [Sri Lankan] Constitution...and is in excess of the power of the President as contained in Article 33(f) of the Constitution. The accession and declaration does not bind the Republic qua state and has no legal effect within the Republic.

49. The said judgment accordingly held that the ratification of the Optional Protocol was not explicitly approved by Parliament, and is therefore not legally binding.
50. However, following a policy decision taken by the GOSL to respond to new communications from the CCPR, the GOSL informed the Committee on 20th January 2016 that it will consider communications with a view to conveying a response or observation. The GOSL has therefore restored its practice of cooperating with the Committee in terms of Article 4(2) of the Optional Protocol i.e., to provide written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and the remedy (if any) that may have been taken by Sri Lanka.
51. Additionally, the GOSL will take steps to formally bring the ratification of the Optional Protocol before Parliament for the purpose of obtaining formal parliamentary approval. Such a measure will remove any doubt with respect to the legally binding nature of the Optional Protocol.

7th June 2016

