



on issues of dispute. UN departments must desist from resorting to punitive action against a Member State unilaterally. This is the only manner to maintain a predictable international order.

It is in this regard Chairperson, that Sri Lanka is regrettably compelled to briefly refer to a matter

If the aspirations of *all* states are to be addressed adequately, international law requires a global consensus. Good faith fulfillment of obligations assumed by states in compliance with the UN Charter is thereby crucial. It is important to remember that all are equal in the application of the rule of law, in the fulfillment of obligations be it assumed by states or any other entities.

Chairperson,

Sri Lanka having experienced over a period of thirty years, a brutal onslaught of terrorism, is conscious of the value of a nation built on the principles of democracy and the Rule of Law.

To this end Sri Lanka has taken several steps to rebuild its democratic institutions and create a framework for reconciliation based on the pillars of truth, justice, reparations and non-recurrence. Under this framework Offices of Missing Persons and Reparations have already been operationalized. A draft Framework for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission is underway, and a Right to Information Act passed into law as part of these efforts to strengthen institutions and frameworks.

Sri Lanka ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in May 2016, and Parliament enacted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Act in 2018. Furthermore, the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act, was passed into law in March 2015 which established a National (f)-16712.7 (t )-12.7 (e)-9.4 (o) 5itnfmse -8.3 (s)-3.3 (e)-8.3 (n)-12.7 6t

Chairperson,

Sri Lanka notes with appreciation the focus on Anti-corruption in the Secretary General's Report. Sri Lanka is a party to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) – which provides a universally accepted legal framework for combating corruption. The country has adopted a holistic approach to combating corruption by targeting all relevant institutions at all levels to meet its unique challenges.

Illicit financial flows emanating from corruption in all its forms by both state and non-state actors, transnational organized crime and tax evasion all contribute to deepening social divides and sabotage genuine development and economic progress especially at national level. We are also aware that International networks with linkages to transnational organized crime are a critical lifeline for violent extremists and terrorists groups. To address this issue Sri Lanka's Anti Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism regime comprises provisions for this purpose.

Multilateral treaties relating to the global commons, namely; the preservation of the environment, oceans and outer space are a reflection of the spirit of cooperation among states that underscores these treaty obligations. The diversity of systems represented by Member States should be viewed as

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) must also be commended for their contribution in entrenching the rule of law at the international level both through its judgments in contentious cases and advisory opinions.

Finally, Sri Lanka draws attention to the challenges faced by developing states when it comes to multilateral treaty making processes especially with regard to insufficient financial and administrative resources. This is an area where the UN can play a crucial role by assisting States with capacity building.

Thank you