



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of Sri Lanka in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by The Honorable Mr. John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, on 26 September 2011 in the General Assembly.

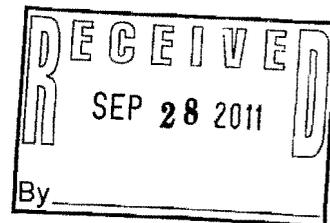
I shall be most grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and the annexed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 8.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Palitha T.B. Kohona', written over a faint circular stamp.

Palitha T.B. Kohona
Ambassador & Permanent Representative

H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York.



Statement of the delegation of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada in the general debate on 26 September 2011

The Sri Lanka delegation is deeply concerned at the remarks made by the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. John Baird, despite extensive efforts made to keep the Canadian delegation in Geneva informed of the reasons for and background to Sri Lanka's objections to the Canadian initiative on "an interactive dialogue on the LLRC process in Sri Lanka at the March 2012 Session of the Human Rights Council, including domestic mechanisms put in place". The Sri Lankan objections have been endorsed by a wide cross section of members of the Council.

In the United Nations, an organization comprising 193 countries subscribing to a range of social, economic and political philosophies, procedure and process are critically important to ensure good governance and prevent intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations from being abused for narrow domestic political advantage and selective application of principle. The rule based framework of the UN system, that we all value, must be safeguarded for the protection of all against such abuse.