

**STATEMENT**

**42nd UPR Session of the Human Rights Council**

**on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka,**

**as delivered by Ambassador Tine Mørch Smith,**

**Permanent Representative of Norway in Geneva.**

 Check against delivery

1 February 2023

President,

Norway welcomes Sri Lanka’s participation in the UPR process [and the ratification of OP-CAT]. [Norway remains concerned about the disproportionate use of force to curtail protests, as well as the shrinking space for civil society and human rights defenders.]

Norway recommends that Sri Lanka:

1. repeals the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and in the interim, establishes a moratorium on its use;

2) upholds the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and releases all individuals who have been detained for participation in peaceful protests;

3) fully implements the recommendations of HRC resolution 51/1 and takes steps to implement an inclusive transitional justice process in the country;

4) repeals Sections 365 and 365A of the Penal Code and sections of other laws that criminalise homosexuality;

5) reviews domestic laws that discriminate against women and prevent gender equality, in particular by establishing a minimum age of 18 years for marriage.

Thank you.