**Statement by India during the 42nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group Meeting**

**(23rd January – 3rd February 2023)**

**4th UPR of Sri Lanka – Interactive Dialogue delivered by**

**Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, Permanent Representative of India**

**(Geneva, 1st February 2023)**

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Sri Lanka and thanks it for its comprehensive National Report.

2. As Sri Lanka’s closest neighbor with deep civilizational bonds, we are aware of the many challenges that Sri Lanka and its people have been facing. India has extended in 2022 an unprecedented support to close to US$ 4 billion for ameliorating the serious economic situation in Sri Lanka.

3. We take note of the engagement by the Government of Sri Lanka with members of the international community and other organizations on various aspects of human rights situation and reconciliation issues in Sri Lanka.

4. In spirit of constructive dialogue, India recommends the following measures to Sri Lanka:

1. Continue with policy measures to strengthen Sri Lankan economy and combating poverty and its impact on the vulnerable segments, including Indian Origin Tamils;
2. Continue to take measures to ensure that fundamental freedoms and human rights of all its citizens, in particular all Tamil speaking citizens, are fully protected.

5. India believes that full implementation of 13th Amendment and early conduct of provincial elections are critical and durable efforts towards reconciliation are in the interest of all sections in Sri Lanka.

6. We wish delegation of Sri Lanka success in its UPR.

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