

## **Transitional Justice Mechanisms and OMP**

Mr. Vice President,

-As explained by the Head of Delegation, Sri Lanka's commitment to the implementation of Resolution 30/1 remains firm.

-As part of Truth Seeking, in August 2016, the Parliament enacted legislation for the establishment of an independent and permanent Office on Missing Persons (OMP), which was operationalized on 15 September 2017.

-On 20 October 2017, as per the provisions of the Act, the Constitutional Council advertised, in all three languages, calling for applications for the posts of 7 Commissioners. Applications closed on 6 November 2017.

-The Constitutional Council will now process applications and nominate members to the President for appointment.

-The budgetary allocation proposed for 2018, for the OMP, in the Budget that was presented to Parliament last week, is Rupees 1.4 billion.

-The OMP is an independent and permanent Office. The Commissions make their own regulations for its operation. The Secretariat for Reconciliation Mechanisms which coordinates the setting up of transitional justice mechanisms has been working with experts including the ICRC to work on plans for organizational structure, identifying training needs and requirements etc., so that the Commissioners, once appointed, have some ground work that has already been done for them to build upon.

-It is expected that the Commissioners, once appointed, will look at existing data bases and reports of the numerous commissions in the past as well, to examine recommendations, and establish its own data base.

-The Office is an independent entity, and there is no restriction to obtaining technical expertise and advice and support from the international community.

-The Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms, has already been working with ICRC pertaining to obtaining expertise related to the setting up of the OMP. The OMP can draw on cooperation from the ICRC and other available expertise.

-We expect the implementation of the OMP to proceed promptly, once the members are selected, and for the OMP, with the resources provided in the budget, to comply with all the areas of its mandate, including the establishment of a comprehensive registry of cases, attention to families of the missing, and search activities.

-The Government already has draft Bills for a Reparations Office and a TRC, which take into account several recommendations made by the Consultation Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms.