

<b>Country/entity</b>	Sri Lanka
<b>Region</b>	Asia and Pacific
<b>Agreement name</b>	Significant Steps to Restore Normalcy, Improve Security and Address Political Matters
<b>Date</b>	3 Nov 2002
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

### Sri Lankan Civil War (1983 - 2009)

The roots of the Sri Lanka conflict lay in British colonial policy which controlled the island from 1802 until 1948. During the early 1800s, the British brought Tamils from mainland India to work on the various plantations for tea, coffee and rubber, changing Sri Lanka's the demographic make-up. Upon independence, Sinhalese nationalism dominated the political sphere and introduced discriminatory policies against the Tamil minority straining relations and sparking protests. Armed Tamil resistance first came in the form of assassinations of moderate Tamils and opposition politicians in the mid-1970s. However, it was the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (LTTE) attack on checkpoint Four Four Bravo, which marked the turning point, sparking pogroms against Tamils in Sinhalese majority areas. This incident, known as Black July, is widely considered to the beginning of the civil war.

The first round of peace talks were backed by India, which had deployed the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in 1987, and led to the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. The Accord was successful in persuading the majority of insurgency groups to lay down arms. However, the strongest Tamil insurgency group, the LTTE, was not party to the talks and refused to disarm, sparking direct conflict between the IPKF and the LTTE until IPKF withdrawal 1990. Following the withdrawal, the LTTE consolidated their power in the North and East sparking another intense and bloody war with the central government that lasted until 2002 when another peace process was launched under the auspices of Norwegian negotiators. The second round of peace talks, however, only continued until April 2003 and in March 2004, a large faction of LTTE cadres split from the main organization damaging LTTE unity. The LTTE were defeated militarily by a large-scale government assault in 2009, however, the conditions for peace remain uncertain.

Close  
Sri Lankan Civil War (1983 - 2009)

<b>Stage</b>	Pre-negotiation/process
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Sri Lanka LTTE 2002 onward process


<b>Parties</b>	Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
<b>Third parties</b>	Norway
<b>Description</b>	This short statement outlines the creation of sub-committees on Political Matters, on De - Escalation and Normalization, and a sub-committee responsible for the continued forward progress of peace talks.

---

<b>Agreement document</b>	<a href="#">LK_021103_Significant Steps to Restore Normalcy.pdf (opens in new tab)</a>   <a href="#">Download PDF</a>
---------------------------	---

---

## Groups

<b>Children/youth</b>	<p>Groups→Children/youth→Rhetorical</p> <p>Page 2, The meeting will aim at mobilizing financial support for immediate humanitarian and rehabilitation action in three priority areas agreed by the parties:</p> <p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehabilitating war - affected women and children</li> </ul>
<b>Disabled persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Elderly/age</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Migrant workers</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Racial/ethnic/national group</b>	<p>Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical</p> <p>Page 1, Against the backdrop of recent tensions among the ethnic communities in the east, the parties agreed on immediate measures to improve the security situation, inter - ethnic co - operation and respect for human rights in the north and east. Acknowledging that peace belongs to all peoples of Sri Lanka, the parties are committed to accommodate the needs and aspirations of all three communities in the east – Tamils, Muslims, and Sinhalese. The agreed measures are outlined in a separate statement issued by the Royal Norwegian Government on 1 November 2002.</p> <p>Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive</p> <p>Page 1, The Sub - Committee will ensure the involvement of all ethnic communities so that their needs and aspirations are considered, and it will give priority to the mobilization of local labor and local institutions in the implementation of activities. The activities initiated by the Sub - Committee will be financed by a fund, which will be set up in accordance with arrangements to be agreed upon with donor governments.</p> <p>Page 2, As another issue relating to the restoration of normalcy, the status of Tamil prisoners held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was discussed.</p>

<b>Religious groups</b>	<p>Groups→Religious groups→Rhetorical</p> <p>Page 1, Against the backdrop of recent tensions among the ethnic communities in the east, the parties agreed on immediate measures to improve the security situation, inter-ethnic co-operation and respect for human rights in the north and east. Acknowledging that peace belongs to all peoples of Sri Lanka, the parties are committed to accommodate the needs and aspirations of all three communities in the east – Tamils, Muslims, and Sinhalese. The agreed measures are outlined in a separate statement issued by the Royal Norwegian Government on 1 November 2002.</p> <p>Groups→Religious groups→Substantive</p> <p>Page 1, The Sub - Committee will consist of four members selected by the LTTE and four by the GOSL. Two members of the respective negotiating teams, Mr. Tamilselvan of the LTTE and Mr. Bernard Goonetilleke of the GOSL, will be leading members of the Sub - Committee. Other GOSL representatives will include Mr. M.D.D. Peiris, Mr. M.I.M. Rafeek, and an additional member of the Muslim community.</p> <p>Page 2, The Sub - Committee on Political Matters will be chaired by the heads of delegations to the peace talks, Mr. Anton Balasingham and Mr. G.L. Peiris. Other government representatives will include Mr. Rauf Hakeem, leader of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress.</p>
<b>Indigenous people</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other groups</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Refugees/displaced persons</b>	<p>Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive</p> <p>Page 2, The meeting will aim at mobilizing financial support for immediate humanitarian and rehabilitation action in three priority areas agreed by the parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resettling and rehabilitating Internally Displaced Persons</li> </ul> <p>Page 2, In line with the overall objective of facilitating the resettlement of internally displaced persons, the parties acted on the decision made at the first session of peace talks to address matters relating to high security zones and other areas made inaccessible to the public. To this end, a Sub - Committee on De - Escalation and Normalization was set up as a mechanism for a structured dialogue between the parties. While accommodating the security concerns of each party, the Sub - Committee will examine ways and means to ensure resettlement, the return of private property and the resumption of economic activities in these areas. This Sub - Committee will include high - level civilian and military personnel on both sides, including Mr. Austin Fernando of the Ministry of Defense and Mr. Karuna of the LTTE.</p>
<b>Social class</b>	No specific mention.

## Gender

**Women, girls and gender** Page 2, The meeting will aim at mobilizing financial support for immediate humanitarian and rehabilitation action in three priority areas agreed by the parties:



- Rehabilitating war - affected women and children

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

---

## State definition

**Nature of state (general)** No specific mention.

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** No specific mention.

**Referendum** No specific mention.

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision** No specific mention.

---

## Governance

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** No specific mention.

<b>Electoral commission</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Political parties reform</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil society</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional/religious leaders</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Public administration</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Constitution</b>	Governance→Constitution→Constitutional reform/making Page 2, The parties remain committed to building peace on the ground through practical steps to improve security and opportunity in people's daily lives. At the same time, the parties acknowledged that the peace talks must address a series of complex political questions in order to reach a negotiated solution to the ethnic conflict, including constitutional, legal, political and administrative issues.

---

#### **Power sharing**

<b>Political power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Territorial power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Economic power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Military power sharing</b>	No specific mention.

---

## **Human rights and equality**

**Human rights/RoL general** No specific mention.

**Bill of rights/similar** No specific mention.

**Treaty incorporation** No specific mention.

**Civil and political rights** No specific mention.

**Socio-economic rights** No specific mention.

---

## **Rights related issues**

**Citizenship** No specific mention.

**Democracy** No specific mention.

**Detention procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and communication** No specific mention.

**Mobility/access** No specific mention.

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

---

## **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

---

## Justice sector reform

**Criminal justice and emergency law** Justice sector reform→Criminal justice and emergency law→Reform to specific laws  
Page 2, As another issue relating to the restoration of normalcy, the status of Tamil prisoners held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was discussed.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

**Judiciary and courts** No specific mention.

**Prisons and detention** No specific mention.

**Traditional Laws** No specific mention.

---

## Socio-economic reconstruction

### Development or socio-economic reconstruction

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development

Page 1, Following the agreement at the first session of talks to set up a joint task force, the parties agreed to establish this in the form of a Sub - Committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs in the North and East. The role of the Sub - Committee will be to

29  
28

- Identify humanitarian and rehabilitation needs
- Prioritize implementation of activities to meet these needs

29  
28

- Decide on the allocation of the financial resources for such activities
- Determine implementing agencies for each of the activities.

Page 2, The meeting will aim at mobilizing financial support for immediate humanitarian and rehabilitation action in three priority areas agreed by the parties:

29  
28

- Providing livelihoods for war - affected people in the North and East.

Page 2, The international community will further be encouraged to increase investment in Sri Lanka and respond positively to new challenges in the south resulting from the peace process.

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance

Page 1, Following the agreement at the first session of talks to set up a joint task force, the parties agreed to establish this in the form of a Sub - Committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs in the North and East. The role of the Sub - Committee will be to

29  
28

- Identify humanitarian and rehabilitation needs

### National economic plan

No specific mention.

### Natural resources

No specific mention.



**International funds** Page 1, The Sub - Committee will ensure the involvement of all ethnic communities so that their needs and aspirations are considered, and it will give priority to the mobilization of local labor and local institutions in the implementation of activities. The activities initiated by the Sub - Committee will be financed by a fund, which will be set up in accordance with arrangements to be agreed upon with donor governments.

Page 2, As its first task the Sub - Committee will assist the Royal Norwegian Government in preparing for a political - level meeting of key governments to take place in Oslo, Norway on 25 November 2002. As the first ever of its kind, the meeting will demonstrate the unprecedented level of international support to Sri Lanka and to the parties in their present peace efforts. The meeting will aim at mobilizing financial support for immediate humanitarian and rehabilitation action in three priority areas agreed by the parties:

- Resettling and rehabilitating Internally Displaced Persons<sup>29</sup>
- Rehabilitating war - affected women and children<sup>29</sup>
- Providing livelihoods for war - affected people in the North and East.

Page 2, The international community will further be encouraged to increase investment in Sri Lanka and respond positively to new challenges in the south resulting from the peace process.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

---

## Land, property and environment

**Land reform/rights** Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Property return and restitution  
Page 2, In line with the overall objective of facilitating the resettlement of internally displaced persons, the parties acted on the decision made at the first session of peace talks to address matters relating to high security zones and other areas made inaccessible to the public. To this end, a Sub - Committee on De - Escalation and Normalization was set up as a mechanism for a structured dialogue between the parties. While accommodating the security concerns of each party, the Sub - Committee will examine ways and means to ensure resettlement, the return of private property and the resumption of economic activities in these areas. This Sub - Committee will include high - level civilian and military personnel on both sides, including Mr. Austin Fernando of the Ministry of Defense and Mr. Karuna of the LTTE.

**Pastoralist/  
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** No specific mention.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian rights or access** No specific mention.

---

**Security sector**

**Security Guarantees** Page 2, In line with the overall objective of facilitating the resettlement of internally displaced persons, the parties acted on the decision made at the first session of peace talks to address matters relating to high security zones and other areas made inaccessible to the public. To this end, a Sub - Committee on De - Escalation and Normalization was set up as a mechanism for a structured dialogue between the parties. While accommodating the security concerns of each party, the Sub - Committee will examine ways and means to ensure resettlement, the return of private property and the resumption of economic activities in these areas. This Sub - Committee will include high - level civilian and military personnel on both sides, including Mr. Austin Fernando of the Ministry of Defense and Mr. Karuna of the LTTE.

Page 2, The parties remain committed to building peace on the ground through practical steps to improve security and opportunity in people's daily lives. At the same time, the parties acknowledged that the peace talks must address a series of complex political questions in order to reach a negotiated solution to the ethnic conflict, including constitutional, legal, political and administrative issues.

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

**Police** No specific mention.

**Armed forces** No specific mention.

**DDR** No specific mention.

**Intelligence services** No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces** No specific mention.

**Withdrawal of foreign forces** No specific mention.

**Corruption** No specific mention.

**Crime/organised crime** No specific mention.

<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Terrorism</b>	Page 2, As another issue relating to the restoration of normalcy, the status of Tamil prisoners held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was discussed.

---

## Transitional justice

<b>Transitional justice general</b>	Page 2, As another issue relating to the restoration of normalcy, the status of Tamil prisoners held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was discussed.
<b>Amnesty/pardon</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mechanism</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisoner release</b>	Page 2, [Summary] The status of Tamil prisoners held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was discussed.
<b>Vetting</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Victims</b>	<p>Page 2, As its first task the Sub - Committee will assist the Royal Norwegian Government in preparing for a political - level meeting of key governments to take place in Oslo, Norway on 25 November 2002. As the first ever of its kind, the meeting will demonstrate the unprecedented level of international support to Sri Lanka and to the parties in their present peace efforts. The meeting will aim at mobilizing financial support for immediate humanitarian and rehabilitation action in three priority areas agreed by the parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Resettling and rehabilitating Internally Displaced Persons<sup>28</sup></li><li>- Rehabilitating war - affected women and children</li></ul> <p><sup>28</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Providing livelihoods for war - affected people in the North and East.</li></ul>
<b>Missing persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reparations</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Page 2, ... Following discussions, the parties agreed to establish a Sub - Committee to commence work in connection with relevant political matters. The parties agreed that access to expertise on political matters will be important in order for them to enter into negotiations on issues central to the peace process. The parties will jointly and separately address in depth, at the current stage of the peace process, relevant subjects such as other peace processes, political solutions to ethnic conflicts, models and systems of government, issues of post - conflict transition, co - ordination of international assistance, and reconciliation processes. To this end, the parties will interact with relevant experts and practitioners in these fields, as a basis for the formulation of approaches to the critical political issues for consideration in the future sessions of the peace talks.

---

## **Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar** No specific mention.

**Enforcement mechanism** No specific mention.

**Related cases** No specific mention.

**Source** <http://peaceinsrilanka.lk/negotiations/rng-070>

---