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The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honour to refer to the latter's Note Verbale No. OL LKA 7/2021 dated 09 December 2021 forwarding a joint communication from a group of special procedures mandate holders.

The Government of Sri Lanka notes that it has been provided only 48 hours to comment on the above joint communication before it is made public, and highlights the importance of affording adequate time to States to consult relevant stakeholders and respond to lengthy commentaries of this nature, particularly where the matter pertains to legislation. This unfortunate practice is a matter of concern to Sri Lanka, especially under the pandemic circumstances.

In view of the above and considering that the response to the joint communication is currently being formulated, the Government of Sri Lanka would appreciate if an extension of timeline until 15 December 2021 is provided for Sri Lanka to provide its comments on the joint communication. Sri Lanka further requests that the joint communication is not made public until the expiration of such extended timeline.

An early response to this Note Verbale, from the OHCHR, would be much appreciated.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 10 December 2021

Special Procedures Branch
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva

