

Country/entity	Sri Lanka
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Action Plan to Address the Problem of Underage Recruitment
Date	7 Feb 2003
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	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)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Sri Lanka LTTE 2002 onward process

Parties	<p>GOSL Delegation: Hon. G.L. Peiris Hon. Milinda Moragoda Hon. Rauf Hakeem Ambassador Bernard Goonetilleke.</p> <p>LTTE Delegation: Mr. Anton Balasingham Mr. S.P. Tamilselvan Mr. Muralitharan (Karuna) Mrs. Adele Balasingham.</p>
Third parties	<p>Norwegian Facilitators: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vidar Helgesen, Ambassador Jon Westborg Mr. Erik Solheim.</p>
Description	<p>Short summary of meeting held during the fifth session observing the progress report of the Sub-committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs for the North and East (SIHRN); the concern of underage recruitment by the LTTE and approving recent initiatives undertaken by UNICEF.</p>

Agreement document	LK_030207_Action Plan to Address the Problem of Underage Recruitment.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
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Groups

Children/youth	<p>Groups→Children/youth→Rhetorical</p> <p>Page 1, The issue of underage recruitment by the LTTE was discussed in an atmosphere of concern and commitment to address the problem. The parties welcomed the recent initiatives taken by UNICEF. Furthermore, practical measures to address the issue were discussed by the parties and agreement was reached to request the facilitation of UNICEF in developing and monitoring such activities in association with the Government and the LTTE.</p>
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

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.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society Page 1, The issue of underage recruitment by the LTTE was discussed in an atmosphere of concern and commitment to address the problem. The parties welcomed the recent initiatives taken by UNICEF. Furthermore, practical measures to address the issue were discussed by the parties and agreement was reached to request the facilitation of UNICEF in developing and monitoring such activities in association with the Government and the LTTE.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing 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 No specific mention.

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→Humanitarian assistance
Page 1, In the first sitting this morning, the progress report from the Sub-Committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs for the North and East (SIHRN) was presented to the Plenary Committee. The significant progress achieved by the Sub-Committee in the period under review was appreciated by the delegations. The delegations also acknowledged the support extended to the activities of SIHRN by government institutions.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds Page 1, Finality was reached on outstanding matters relating to the establishment of the North and East Reconstruction Fund (NERF). The Fund is expected to be operational by early next week. Externalities that could have a bearing on donor commitments were discussed and the parties agreed to expedite necessary matters in this regard.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**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 1, The issue of underage recruitment by the LTTE was discussed in an atmosphere of concern and commitment to address the problem. The parties welcomed the recent initiatives taken by UNICEF. Furthermore, practical measures to address the issue were discussed by the parties and agreement was reached to request the facilitation of UNICEF in developing and monitoring such activities in association with the Government and the LTTE.

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** Page 1, The issue of underage recruitment by the LTTE was discussed in an atmosphere of concern and commitment to address the problem. The parties welcomed the recent initiatives taken by UNICEF. Furthermore, practical measures to address the issue were discussed by the parties and agreement was reached to request the facilitation of UNICEF in developing and monitoring such activities in association with the Government and the LTTE.

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

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
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Drugs	No specific mention.
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Terrorism	No specific mention.
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Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
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Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
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Courts	No specific mention.
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Mechanism	No specific mention.
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Prisoner release	No specific mention.
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Vetting	No specific mention.
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Victims	No specific mention.
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Missing persons	No specific mention.
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Reparations	No specific mention.
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Reconciliation	No specific mention.
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Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
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Other international signatory	No signatures, but mediated by the Royal Government of Norway.
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Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
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International mission/force/similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	http://www.norway.lk/News_and_events/Relations-between-Norway-and-Sri-Lanka/Peace-Process/peace/fifth/
