

Country/entity	Sri Lanka
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	The third session of peace talks between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) (Oslo Communique)
Date	5 Dec 2002
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/territory
Peace process	Sri Lanka LTTE 2002 onward process

Parties Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE); Government of Sri Lanka

Third parties Royal Government of Norway

Description Press statement highlights attempts at re-consolidating the ceasefire, giving access to humanitarian aid and that parties re-affirmed the need to help women and children.

Agreement document [LK_021205_Oslo Communique.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth	Groups→Children/youth→Rhetorical Page 2, As a priority area identified by the parties for humanitarian action, the parties stressed the need to improve the situation for children affected by armed conflict. Inspired by the international norms protecting the rights of the child, the parties underlined that children belong with their families or other custodians and not in the workplace, whether civilian or military. The LTTE will engage in a partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to draw up an action plan for restoring normalcy to the lives of children, and the parties called on the international community to provide financial support for such an action plan.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	Groups→Religious groups→Substantive Page 1, The parties recognised that progress on political issues must be supported by the continued consolidation of the Ceasefire Agreement. New concrete measures will be taken to facilitate further de-escalation and to improve normalcy: - The parties will facilitate restoration and rehabilitation of places of worship in the north and the east belonging to all religious communities.
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	Page 2, The parties acknowledged the need to ensure that the priorities and needs of women are taken into account in all aspects of the peace process. To this effect, they agreed to establish a permanent advisory committee which will, on a regular basis, submit proposals relating to women's interests to the sessions of negotiations and to the sub-committees of the peace process. The committee will consist of four representatives of each party.
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	Page 2, As a priority area identified by the parties for humanitarian action, the parties stressed the need to improve the situation for children affected by armed conflict. Inspired by the international norms protecting the rights of the child, the parties underlined that children belong with their families or other custodians and not in the workplace, whether civilian or military. The LTTE will engage in a partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to draw up an action plan for restoring normalcy to the lives of children, and the parties called on the international community to provide financial support for such an action plan.

State definition

Nature of state (general)	Page 1, ... based on a federal structure within a united Sri Lanka. The parties acknowledged that the solution has to be acceptable to all communities.
State configuration	Guided by this objective, the parties agreed to initiate discussions on substantive political issues such as, but not limited to: - Power-sharing between the centre and the region, as well as within the centre
Self determination	Page 1, Responding to a proposal by the leadership of the LTTE, the parties agreed to explore a solution founded on the principle of internal self-determination in areas of historical habitation of the Tamil-speaking peoples, based on a federal structure within a united Sri Lanka. The parties acknowledged that the solution has to be acceptable to all communities.
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 No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration Page 1, Guided by this objective, the parties agreed to initiate discussions on substantive political issues such as, but not limited to:
...- Political and administrative mechanism

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing

Power sharing→Political power sharing→General State level

Page 1, Guided by this objective, the parties agreed to initiate discussions on substantive political issues such as, but not limited to:

- Power-sharing between the centre and the region, as well as within the centre
- Geographical region

Power sharing→Political power sharing→Other State level

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Territorial power sharing

Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Other

Page 1, Guided by this objective, the parties agreed to initiate discussions on substantive political issues such as, but not limited to:

- Geographical region

Economic power sharing

No specific mention.

Military power sharing

No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general

Page 1, Guided by this objective, the parties agreed to initiate discussions on substantive political issues such as, but not limited to:

- ...- Human Rights protection

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 Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of groups
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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→Socio-economic development

Page 1, The third session of peace talks between the Government of Sri Lanka {GOSL} and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam {LTTE} was held in Oslo, Norway on 2 to 5 December 2002. In a frank, open and constructive manner, the parties focused on three major areas:

- Humanitarian and rehabilitation action

Page 1, The parties recognised that progress on political issues must be supported by the continued consolidation of the Ceasefire Agreement. New concrete measures will be taken to facilitate further de-escalation and to improve normalcy:

- The parties will facilitate restoration and rehabilitation of places of worship in the north and the east belonging to all religious communities.

Page 1, The parties strongly underlined the need to move rapidly on humanitarian and rehabilitation efforts in the north and east. For this purpose, the early establishment of the North-East Reconstruction Fund will be critical. The parties agreed that the custodian of the fund should be selected and modalities for its operation agreed at the next meeting of the Sub-Committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs. The parties expressed their appreciation of the strong support extended by Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance

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National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds Page 1, The parties expressed their appreciation of the strong support extended by several governments to the peace process at the Sri Lanka Support Meeting held in Oslo on 25 November, and urged these governments to rapidly release funds needed for humanitarian and rehabilitation efforts.

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Business No specific mention.

Taxation Socio-economic reconstruction→Taxation→Reform of taxation
Page 1, Guided by this objective, the parties agreed to initiate discussions on substantive political issues such as, but not limited to:
... - Public finance

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Other land rights
Page 1, On the basis of their firm conviction that the maintenance of law and order in the north and east is of paramount importance, the parties agreed to request the Sub-Committee on De-escalation and Normalization to propose a common approach to settling cases involving the disputed use of private property, where such use has been impeded by the conflict. Furthermore, the LTTE will ensure that the activities of their law and order mechanisms will not be extended beyond the areas dominated by the LTTE.

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

Cultural heritage Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Tangible
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Environment No specific mention.

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

Security sector

Security Guarantees

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... - Law and order

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

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- Consolidation of the ceasefire
- Humanitarian and rehabilitation action
- Political matters

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- The LTTE will accept the right of political groups to carry out political work, including in the Jaffna peninsula and the islands, provided that they are unarmed, as stipulated by the Ceasefire Agreement

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

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DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces Page 1, The parties recognised that progress on political issues must be supported by the continued consolidation of the Ceasefire Agreement. New concrete measures will be taken to facilitate further de-escalation and to improve normalcy:
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Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar Page 1, The parties recognised that progress on political issues must be supported by the continued consolidation of the Ceasefire Agreement. New concrete measures will be taken to facilitate further de-escalation and to improve normalcy:
- The LTTE will ensure that all future transportation of area commanders will take place under the supervision of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM)

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

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