



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

12 September 2011

Excellency,

It is my pleasure to share with you the Report of my Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka.

At the conclusion of my visit to Sri Lanka on 23 May 2009, a few days after the cessation of the armed conflict there, H.E. Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and I issued a joint statement including a commitment to an accountability process to address allegations of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law committed during the military operations between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. I established my Panel of Experts on 22 June 2010 to advise me on the implementation of the joint commitment.

The Panel reported to me on 13 April 2011 and, especially in light of the many recommendations directed at the Government of Sri Lanka, I shared the report immediately with the Government, inviting it to provide me with its response. While no formal response as such has been forthcoming, however, the Government shared with me on 19 August 2011 a report entitled "Humanitarian Operation Factual Analysis: July 2006 – May 2009" which, it informed me, seeks to address key issues raised in the report of the Panel of Experts. The Government's report is attached for your information.

I wish to inform you that in addition to sharing this report with you, I am acting on my Expert Panel's recommendation that I should conduct a review of actions by the United Nations system during the war in Sri Lanka and its aftermath, regarding the implementation of its humanitarian and protection mandates, and I intend to appoint Ms. Thoraya Obaid, former Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, to lead this review.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

BAN/Ki-moon

Her Excellency
Ms. Laura Dupuy Lasserre
President of the Human Rights Council
Geneva