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**13th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
at the UPR on the Philippines**

Madam President,

The delegation of Sri Lanka warmly welcomes the high-level delegation of the Philippines, and commends the comprehensive statement and the consultative process adopted in preparing the National Report.

Sri Lanka commends action taken by the Philippines to combat poverty, promote universal primary education, and improve local health standards. My delegation takes particular note of the *Pantawid Pamilya* Programme which has quadrupled its budget and covers 3 million households. We especially acknowledge the consistent support and lead role by the Philippines with regard to initiatives to promote and protect the human rights of migrant workers and the welfare of their families. We also commend efforts undertaken in human rights education, combating trafficking in persons and protecting the environment.

We note that the first and second Philippine Development Plans cover the protection of economic, social and cultural rights, and sets the track for

mainstreaming human rights, respectively. We are encouraged that the Philippines' reinvigorated focus on economic, social and cultural rights has led to a better appreciation of these rights' justiciability within the State's jurisdiction.

We note with interest that since the first UPR, the Philippines has passed a number of laws for the protection of women and children. Among these, the Magna Carta for Women and the Anti-Child Pornography Law of 2009, are noteworthy. We are encouraged by the action taken to set up Women's and Children's Desks at police stations and at all levels in the country.

We recommend that the Philippine Government continues to mainstream human rights in the public sector.

In conclusion, Madam President, Sri Lanka joins its many friends in wishing the Philippines all success in the UPR second cycle.

Thank you.