



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

Madam President,

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

Sri Lanka commends South Africa's progressive Constitution predicated on the core principles of human dignity, equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms, representing a bridge between a divided past and a united future, sensitive to the need for social cohesion and nation building.

We are mindful that South Africa embarked on a domestic and inclusive process of reconciliation, based on restorative justice, and has successfully evolved from the particular historical circumstances faced by the country.

We note with interest the legislative framework in place, including the proposed Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, the Child

Justice Act, and the National Health Amendment Bill. We also note positively that women represent over 40 per cent of parliamentarians, and over 50 per cent of public service senior management positions.

Sri Lanka, as a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural country with its own tri-lingual policy, welcomes South Africa's proposed National Languages Bill, which would provide all citizens with the possibility of interacting with the Government in a language of one's choice and promote inclusiveness.

We commend South Africa's commitment to the achievement of MDGs and the attainment of food security.

In conclusion, Madam President, my delegation recommends that South Africa continues with action to further reduce maternal and child mortality, and the prevalence rate of HIV and AIDS.

Thank you.