



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
The Universal Periodic Review of Argentina
14th Session

Madam President,

Delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the high level delegation of Argentina led by -----, and expresses appreciation for the comprehensive report, which provided an overview of the challenges faced and the action taken to promote and protect human rights since 2008.

We note that Argentina has recorded its highest ever employment rate last year, and continues with its endeavours toward strengthening social security.

Sri Lanka recognizes the vital importance of ensuring that all members of the populace receive equal access to health. My delegation in this regard commends Argentina in its efforts to improve the country's health and medical sectors. We take particular note of the shift toward generic medicines in order to lower costs and enhance access to medicine, free medical coverage for children and pregnant women, education programmes on nutrition, and increased efforts to stop the spread of HIV.

Funding increases by the Argentine Government towards education, and the National food security plan initiatives aimed at alleviating hunger, are also noteworthy.

Sri Lanka also notes positively the high percentage of women representatives holding political office, with more than 42% of standing committees in the Chamber of Deputies being presided over by women, and more than 38% of senate seats being held by women in 2011.

We welcome Argentina's efforts to combat human trafficking, including its Act 26.364 titled Prevention and Punishment of Human trafficking and Victim Assistance, and the establishment of the Trafficking Victims Rescue and Assistance Office.

Madam President,

Sri Lanka recommends that Argentina continues to strengthen its national coordination efforts and develop facilities and services to assist trafficked persons. We hope that the Government of Argentina will receive the assistance it requires to establish such frameworks.

In conclusion, Madam President, my delegation wishes Argentina all success in its UPR engagement in the second cycle.

Thank you.