



Statement by Sri Lanka  
14<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group  
Review of Pakistan

Madam President,

Sri Lanka warmly welcomes the high-level delegation of Pakistan led by Her Excellency Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the UPR Working Group.

As a fellow South Asian country with close bilateral relations with Pakistan, Sri Lanka commends the Government of Pakistan for the significant progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly during the last four years, including the enactment of several laws to strengthen the rights of women, and to combat violence against women.

Sri Lanka commends the Government of Pakistan for having further strengthened the National Commissions on Status on Women, on Child Welfare and Development, and on Minorities. The enactment of a new law creating an independent National Commission for Human Rights in line with Paris Principles is significant.

Ambassador

H.E. Mr  
Ravinatha  
Arayasinha

My delegation commends Pakistan for the constitutional amendments passed by Parliament to further strengthen democracy and human rights, and the progress made in health, education, housing, water and sanitation and poverty alleviation.

Madam President,

As a country that knows well the debilitating effect terrorism can have on a country and its people, Sri Lanka attaches high importance to the commitment displayed by the Government of Pakistan to the fight against terrorism and wishes it all success in this challenging task.

We would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Pakistan:

1. To continue with measures to combat terrorism;
2. To continue to promote and protect the rights of women, by enacting necessary laws and introducing institutional mechanisms.

In conclusion, Sri Lanka would like to wish Pakistan all success in its UPR engagement in the second cycle.

Thank You.