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SRI LANKA

The delegation of the Republic of Cyprus welcomes Sri Lanka's participation in the 2nd Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and its national report on the progress made concerning the implementation of the 1st Cycle recommendations.

We have carefully studied the report and we would like to acknowledge the positive steps taken by the government of Sri Lanka in the areas of development, poverty reduction, rehabilitation and reintegration of the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the recent establishment of a specialized Task Force for the implementation of the LLRC recommendations.

Admittedly, a number of challenges remain especially concerning the situation of vulnerable groups, particularly internally displaced women and children and persons with disabilities.

In this regard, we encourage the Government of Sri Lanka:

1. to redouble its efforts against impunity and to strengthen the draft bill on witness and victim protection;
2. to effectively address the problem of the significant number of outstanding cases of missing persons through effective institutional coordination and investigation;
3. to continue adopting specific measures and action plans to combat human trafficking;
4. to fully implement LLRC recommendations concerning the protection of children's rights and to step up its efforts in the fight against discrimination of IDP children and children with disabilities, as well as the fight against child labour and child abuse;
5. to consider ratifying OPCAT, 2nd OP to ICCPR and the CED.