

AY

(Check against delivery)



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

PR Päivi Kaikamo

14th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Finland's questions and recommendations to Sri Lanka 1 November 2012

Madam President,

Finland wishes to thank Sri Lanka for the presentation of its national report today.

During its previous UPR in 2008, Sri Lanka committed itself to complete the process of drafting a bill on the rights of IDPs. Finland has also taken note of the *Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission's* report, which includes recommendations regarding IDPs. Finland would therefore be interested in hearing more about measures taken to protect the IDPs' rights.

Finland is encouraged by the positive steps taken in the return process of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), including the closure of the Menik Farm. However, there are still people who are not able to return to their homes.

Finland makes the following two recommendations:

1. Ensure the protection of IDP's right to voluntary and safe return and to adequate restitution by, inter alia, putting in place and implementing long-term housing and property restitution policies that comply with international standards.
2. Ensure women's participation in the post-conflict, reconstruction and peace building process.

Thank you.