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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
14<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON UPR  
UPR OF SRI LANKA, 1 NOVEMBER 2012

**STATEMENT BY NIGERIA DELIVERED BY H.E. DR. UMMUNA H. ORJIAKO,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO UNOG**

Madam President,

Nigeria warmly welcomes the delegation of Sri Lanka and thanks them for the presentation of their UPR report.

Nigeria takes due note of the positive post conflict developments in Sri Lanka including resettling of IDPs, the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-combatants, as well as the policy of not prosecuting former child-soldiers who were victims and not perpetrators.

Nigeria also acknowledges the gains made under the LLRC process such as recruitment of Tamil-speaking police officers, seeking to give Tamils a sense of belonging, removal of the military from civil administration in the North, and restoring a culture of democracy in the region.

We welcome the establishment, and progress being made in the implementation of, a National Human Rights Action Plan. We look forward to the outcome of the initial evaluation of the plan by the end of this year, and we encourage the involvement of civil society in the evaluation as was done in its formulation.

Nigeria is also pleased to note Sri Lanka's commitment to ensuring the safety, and facilitating the work of, media personnel and institutions, as press freedom is indispensable for human rights and democracy to thrive.

**Finally, Madam President,** while we strongly commend Sri Lanka for the progress made on human rights, we also note that many challenges still remain. We therefore urge the government of Sri Lanka to continue its reconciliation process, and active engagement with the Human Rights Council, in order to overcome these challenges.

I thank you.

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