

Statement by Romania

Thank you, Madam President.

We appreciate the presentation of the delegation of Sri Lanka in this UPR process and commend the fact that it shows the actions undertaken by the Government, as well as its vision on the challenges ahead.

We appreciate the public initiatives recently taken by the Government of Sri Lanka, which demonstrate progress on human rights issues. We welcome the action plan launched this July for the implementation of the LRRC recommendations. We also appreciate the cooperation of the Government with the UN technical missions on human rights which visited Sri Lanka in September 2012.

The issue of accountability is the main factor for the success of the reconciliation process. Against this background, there are, however, many challenges ahead. Questions about accountability, especially in relation to human rights violations during the last stages of the war in 2009, are still pending. Some investigations of individual cases inside the military establishment have been announced. We encourage the Sri Lankan authorities to make further progress in the reconciliation process, as it is in the national interest of Sri Lanka.

Questions:

1. What are the government's plans for further ratification of several key human rights conventions in order to strengthen the country's human rights framework? We would notably refer to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the OPCAT.
2. In terms of accountability for alleged crimes that have not been addressed yet, what are the current mechanisms to investigate and, if necessary, to prosecute the reported cases of human rights violations?

Recommendations:

We recommend Sri Lanka to take further steps to carry out investigations and prosecute those accused of child recruitment and set up mechanisms for the parents of missing child combatants to help trace them.

We recommend Sri Lanka to continue taking all necessary measures to ensure full equality of its citizens, regardless of ethnicity or religion.

Thank you very much, Madam President.