

PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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Universal Periodic Review of Sri Lanka

Madam President,

Slovenia would like to thank the delegation of Sri Lanka for the national report, its presentation today and their commitment to the UPR process. We would like to focus on two particular unresolved issues.

CEDAW referred to women and girls having unequal and disadvantages status in various areas, such as in the workforce, in political representation etc. CEDAW called for the inclusion of a gender perspective in the National Development Agenda. Slovenia would therefore like to recommend to Sri Lanka to fully incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women into its domestic system.

Various reports state that <u>human rights defenders</u>, defense lawyers and other civil society actors, including political activists and journalists are still subject to attacks, harassment, threats and public vilification, among other concerns. Slovenia would like to recommend to Sri Lanka to take immediate steps to prevent attacks on the human rights defenders and media and take action to investigate such acts.

Thank you.