



**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW REPORT OF SRI
LANKA**

01 NOVEMBER 2012

**PALAIS DES NATIONS
AGENDA ITEM 6**

Madame President,

The South African delegation welcomes the delegation Sri Lanka, and thanks the delegation for its report. While it in initial stages, the South African delegation is encouraged by steps taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to address extreme poverty and progress towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the elaboration of a National Human Rights Action Plan, initiatives to resettle persons who were displaced during the conflict, as well as ongoing demining activities.

Given the challenges associated with armed conflict, the South African delegation recommends that the Sri Lankan Government should continue to focus on establishing and strengthening institutions of governance with a view to contributing towards adequate protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, provision of adequate remedies where violations occur, and zero tolerance for impunity.

While the Government has set target for gender equality, CEDAW has expressed concerns about gross human rights violations of women, including those who are internally displaced and those belonging to minority groups. We recommend that all forms of violence against women be criminalised, and perpetrators held accountable.

To address challenges related to the protection and fulfilment of the rights of children, we recommend that a comprehensive national strategy for the protection of the rights of children be formulated, also with a view to ensuring compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, following the review of national laws.

Finally, the South African delegation recommends that Sri Lanka should continue to expand its social security coverage, particularly to disadvantaged groups not covered by poverty alleviation programmes. I thank you.