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ONUR KATMERCI

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
14TH SESSION
COUNTRY UNDER REVIEW: SRI LANKA
Intervention by Turkey

Thank you Madame President,

We would like to thank H.E.and the distinguished delegation of Sri Lanka for their substantive presentation of their national report.

Turkey welcomes the efforts of Sri Lanka to consolidate the hard won peace following the defeat of terrorism and to ensure rapid development and reconciliation amongst the people of Sri Lanka.

Provincial Council elections that were held in the Eastern Province are particularly important for the consolidation of democracy, as the people of Sri Lanka exercised their fundamental right in the areas formerly threatened by terrorist groups.

We are cognizant that the need for economic development is fundamental for the effective realization of human rights. In this vein, we are pleased to note the post-conflict economic growth rate of nearly 25 percent in the Northern Province, increasing its share in the national economy.

Sri Lanka's continuous efforts to resettle the vast amount IDP's deserves appreciation. The implementation of a special program of work to resolve the land disputes in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and priority given in favor of the IDP's are worth recognizing as a part of reconciliation efforts.

Turkey appreciates and encourages Sri Lanka's active engagement with the main human rights bodies, as a party to seven core international conventions and four optional protocols.

Turkey highly appreciates the existing moratorium on executions and **recommends** the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR. Turkey also **recommends** the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Turkey gladly observes Sri Lanka's progress in alleviating poverty and malnutrition and encourages Sri Lanka to seek technical cooperation from UNICEF and WHO to further alleviate child malnutrition.

I thank you Madame President.