



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
The Universal Periodic Review 14th Session
Review of Switzerland

Madam President,

Sri Lanka welcomes the high-level delegation of Switzerland to the UPR Working Group.

We commend Switzerland for its continued efforts toward strengthening institutional frameworks dealing with human rights, and its voluntary commitment to establish a national institution on human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles.

My delegation commends the efforts to address gender inequalities, and congratulates the Swiss Government for its celebration of four decades of women's suffrage last year. We also welcome that women held the majority of seats in the Swiss Federal Council in 2010 and 2011.

Sri Lanka also welcomes efforts by the Swiss authorities toward combating discrimination, and believes that the decision to

increase the Confederation and cantonal budgets in 2014, specifically to ensure protection against discrimination in integration programmes, is noteworthy.

Madam President,

Sri Lanka would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Switzerland:

1. To continue measures to combat activities by transnational criminal and terrorist elements and their front organizations in Switzerland, with a view to ensuring that the perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice.
2. To continue action to ensure the equality of men and women in the workplace, including the implementation of programmes to combat wage gaps.
3. To take further measures to combat racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

In conclusion, we wish the Government of Switzerland success in its UPR engagement.

Thank You.