



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
The Universal Periodic Review 14<sup>th</sup> Session  
Review of Zambia

Madam President,

Sri Lanka warmly welcomes the high-level delegation of Zambia to the UPR Working Group, and commends the comprehensive statement and the National report which provided an overview of the challenges faced and progress achieved in the protection and promotion of human rights.

Sri Lanka takes special note of the Zambian Government's acknowledgement of the need to improve the quality of life of its populace, and its aim to achieve higher and sustained economic growth through the introduction of programmes aimed at accelerating the socio-economic empowerment of citizens, especially youth and women.

Sri Lanka welcomes the consultative efforts undertaken toward drafting a national constitution; and commends the Zambian Government's strategic focus on the social, economic, cultural, religious and environmental rights of its people; and its emphasis on the rights of the child, persons with disabilities, women and other

vulnerable sectors of the community. We encourage the Zambian Government to work expeditiously toward completing this work.

We welcome the Anti- Human Trafficking Act of 2008 and note that it will assist in combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children. We also commend continued developments in the education sphere, particularly in the areas of free basic education, the right to early childhood care, basic high-school education and the decision to include human rights education on the primary education curriculum. We further welcome the increase in budgetary allocation in the health sector.

While recognising that efforts to combat HIV/ AIDS have resulted in a reduction of HIV prevalence from 16.1% in 2007, to 14.3% in 2009, my delegation understands that the HIV/ AIDS epidemic continues to presents a major challenge to the Government and the people of Zambia.

In conclusion, Madam President, Sri Lanka recommends that the Government of Zambia continue with efforts to combat HIV/ AIDS.

Thank You.