

Mrs. Priyanga Wickramasinghe

Counsellor

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Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

15th session of the Universal Periodic review

Review of the Bahamas - 23 January 2013

Mr President,

The delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the high level delegation of The Bahamas to the UPR Working Group.

Sri Lanka notes the developments since the last review in the UPR Working Group, in particular the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2008.

We welcome the enactment of the Child Protection Act in 2009, which has been guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We note that The Bahamas has also made progress in the advancement of women, and that since Bahamian women were enfranchised in 1962, women have served in high-level positions in the country.

We also welcome the many measures that have been put in place by the Government in the area of trafficking in persons, including the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act of 2008, the establishment of the Inter Ministry Committee on Trafficking in Persons in 2011 and the Trafficking in Persons Task Force in 2012.

My delegation would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of the Bahamas:

1. Ensure effective enforcement of the Trafficking in Persons Act and continue to combat trafficking in persons as well arms smuggling and drug trafficking;
2. Strengthen efforts in the sphere of education with a view to increasing school enrolment rates at primary and secondary level and achieving the target of Education for All by 2015;

Thank you.