



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

15th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Barbados - 25 January 2013

Mr President,

The delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the high level delegation of Barbados to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for their engagement.

My delegation acknowledges the positive developments made by Barbados since the last review in the UPR Working Group and welcomes the Government's efforts, inter alia, in the areas of promoting the rights of the child, gender equality, combating domestic violence, poverty alleviation and trafficking in persons.

We also welcome the youth empowerment agenda at the national policy level and in this respect the elaboration and implementation of the National Youth Policy, which has identified special focus areas concerning youth.

We take particular note of the various measures to counter and alleviate racial discrimination, particularly efforts at the school level, with a view to building individual confidence and self esteem of children.

We acknowledge that progress has been made despite the global economic downturn, which has adversely impacted the country.

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

1. Continue efforts to combat gender stereotyping and gender inequality across the board and work towards

empowerment of women in all spheres of society, including addressing sexual harassment in the work place;

2. Noting that HIV is one of the greatest maladies affecting the population in Barbados, and as this has a negative impact on the entire country, continue to strengthen capacities to combat the spread of HIV.

Finally, my delegation would like to wish Barbados, all the success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.

Priyanga Weerasinghe
Counsellor