

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 Mali - 22 January 2013

Mr President,

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

My delegation welcomes Mali's efforts in the areas of education, health, nutrition and housing, and the adoption of the Strategic framework for Development and Reduction of Poverty in December 2011.

We note that the government is in the process of elaborating a national policy for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child with an action plan for 2013-2017, including efforts to combat child employment. We also take note of the adoption of the Personal and Family Code, which reinforces legal protection of the rights of women.

Sri Lanka is cognizant of the fact that the volatile situation in the North of Mali is hindering its development process, and that the Government faces daunting challenges in restoring peace. As a country that has suffered from the devastating impact of terrorism on all aspects of civilian life for over three decades, we empathize with the efforts made by the Government and the people of Mali in combating terrorism.

My delegation wishes to make the following recommendations to the Government of Mali:

1. Continue to combat terrorism in all its manifestations;
2. Take measures to combat drug trafficking and arms smuggling in northern Mali

In conclusion my delegation wishes the Government of Mali success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you, Mr President.