



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

15th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Montenegro - 28 January 2013

Mr President,

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

We take note the update note of the progress made by Montenegro since the first cycle of the UPR.

Sri Lanka welcomes the development of the institutional framework to promote and protect human rights, especially the establishment of working bodies to monitor implementation of human rights policies, such as the establishment of the Children Rights Council and the Anti-Discrimination Council. We welcome measures to combat crime, particularly corruption, terrorism, and organized crime.

Sri Lanka is encouraged by Montenegro's commitment toward efforts to promote minority rights, such as the establishment of the Center for Preservation and Development of Culture of Minorities.

My delegation commends the noteworthy efforts to promote women's rights, through the Implementation of initiatives such as the *IPA Gender Programme*, which not only aims to eliminate violence against women, but also strives toward political and economic empowerment. Sri Lanka also recognizes that the *strategy for Protection from*

Domestic Violence (2011-2015) will aid in the protection of both women's and children's rights.

While commending the Government of Montenegro for decreasing the trend in trafficking in persons, including, through its criminal code and national initiatives, we are concerned that it remains to be a considerable issue of concern .

Mr President, my delegation wishes to make the following recommendations to the Government of Montenegro:

1. Improve and adopt measures to combat trafficking in persons, including through the draft 2012-2018 action plan, and the provision of training to judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers;
2. Continue efforts to address the issue of IDPS with a view to finding a durable solution.

In concluding, we wish Montenegro success in its UPR engagement.

Thank You.