

Ms. Priyanga Wickramasinghe
Counsellor

(40)



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
15th session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Romania - 22 January 2013

Mr President,

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

Sri Lanka commends the efforts undertaken by the Government of Romania to implement the recommendations made during its first UPR cycle.

We welcome the endeavours to promote and protect children's rights. We particularly take note, at this juncture, of the cooperation mechanism between national authorities to ensure maximum protection to children against any form of trafficking. We also note efforts to improve access to education, in particular initiatives such as the 'Second Chance' programme aimed at reintegrating young school drop outs into the lower secondary education.

We also welcome the initiative to promote women's rights, notably with regard to the prevention and elimination of domestic violence against women.

In the area of health, my delegation commends the positive advancements achieved, including the creation of the National Mental Health and Anti-Drug Centre in 2008.

My delegation recognises that Romanian nationals have been victims of transnational organized crime, primarily in the area of trafficking in persons. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the national project aimed at strengthening the capacity of judicial authorities for investigating the cases of human trafficking, as well as the adoption of other legislative measures

Mr President,

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

1. Further strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in persons providing assistance and protection to victims, and ensuring that perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice;
2. Continue efforts to protect all migrant workers and their families, ensuring that abusive employers are held accountable and brought to justice;

Thank You.