



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

15th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of the United Arab Emirates - 28 January 2013

Mr President,

Sri Lanka warmly welcomes the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, led by H.E. Dr. Anwar Mohammad Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, to the UPR Working Group.

Sri Lanka is encouraged by the several national policies and strategies undertaken by the UAE Government as a response to the population's social needs. The Emirates Vision 2021 and the Government Strategy for 2011-2013 are noteworthy in this regard. We commend the emphasis placed in these strategies on education, healthcare, housing, and efforts to develop infrastructure in remote areas of the country.

Sri Lanka commends efforts by the UAE to promote and protect the rights of the child, including through the implementation of recommendations made during its first UPR, in particular, the successful closure of the dossier on child jockeys in the country.

We take special note of the UAE's commitment to promote women's rights. The many initiatives aimed at the economic, social and political empowerment of women will also bring the country closer to achieving MDG 3.

We welcome the various initiatives undertaken by the UAE Government to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers, particularly the strategy and plan of action formulated by the Ministry of Labour to improve their working and living conditions.

In conclusion Sri Lanka recommends that the UAE continue to place importance on secure economic development, including through infrastructure development in rural areas, in order to ensure that people living in these areas fully enjoy their economic and social rights.

We wish the United Arab Emirates all success in its UPR engagement.

Thank You.

Mrs. Priyanga WICKRAMASINGHE
Counsellor