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Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

16th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Bangladesh - 29 April 2013

Mr President,

The delegation of Sri Lanka warmly welcomes the delegation of Bangladesh led by Her Excellency Dr Dipu Moni, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for the comprehensive national report and the presentation this morning.

As a neighbour and friend, Sri Lanka is greatly encouraged by the progress made by Bangladesh since its first UPR, despite challenges. My delegation commends the Government for the many initiatives taken to promote and protect human rights, including the adoption of 196 human rights related legislations since the first UPR.

We also welcome the measures taken to combat terrorism, money laundering and terrorist financing, as well as human trafficking.

In the sphere of economic, social and cultural rights, we are pleased to note that the inclusive economic growth strategy is yielding positive results. Also noteworthy is the progress in the health sector, especially in reducing the child mortality rate.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to Bangladesh:

1. Continue its fight against all forms of organized crime, in particular drug trafficking and terrorism.
2. Consider taking measures to enhance work place safety in the private sector, in particular in the garments sector.

In conclusion, we wish Bangladesh success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.