



## Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

### 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review

#### Review of Canada- 26 April 2013

Mr President,

The delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Canada to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the presentation today.

Sri Lanka takes note of the various developments in relation to ensuring human rights in Canada, including measures to protect women and children from violence, measures to combat human trafficking, and to alleviate poverty.

We also welcome efforts to promote social inclusion, intercultural understanding and equality with the aim of addressing discrimination. However, we are concerned that people of colour, including Asian-Canadian and African-Canadian communities, face persistent problems and unequal treatment resulting, inter alia, in higher unemployment rates, lower income levels and living in social housing with relatively poor access to services.

The Independent Expert on Minority Issues, following her visit to Canada in 2009, has observed that many highly qualified and skilled workers who have been encouraged to migrate to Canada find, upon arrival, that their qualifications are not recognized at the provincial or territorial level. Unable to gain employment in their former professions, they have to resort to low-skilled, low-waged employment, forcing some to live in conditions of hardship and poverty.

In this context, Sri Lanka makes the following recommendations to Canada:

1. Take appropriate measures to address problems faced by immigrant skilled workers in relation to gaining employment on par with their education, experience and skills;
2. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
3. Develop comprehensive national strategies to address homelessness and poverty;
4. Take measures to integrate minority children in the school system with a view to preventing segregation and discrimination.

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

Thank you.