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**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

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

**Review of Colombia - 23 April 2013**

Mr President,

The delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the high level delegation of Colombia to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the comprehensive national report and update.

We also wish to acknowledge the continuous follow-up of the accepted recommendations and commitments since the first UPR.

Sri Lanka takes special note of the implementation of the National Development Plan "Prosperity for All" for 2010-2014, and the establishment of the sector for social inclusion and reconciliation. We observe that in keeping with its commitment, and owing to targeted programmes and policies of the government, there has been a decrease, nationally, in the rates of poverty and extreme poverty.

We take note of the several initiatives aimed at ensuring the right to education at different levels, amongst them the National Programme for Literacy and Basic and Intermediate Education for Young people and Adults, and also congratulate the government for achieving universal coverage at the basic primary and secondary level in 2011.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. Further strengthen efforts to combat discrimination in education,
2. Adopt further measures to reduce maternal morbidity and infant mortality.

We wish Colombia success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.

Priyanga WICKRAMASINGHE