



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

16th session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Uzbekistan - 24 April 2013

Mr President,

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

We commend the Government of Uzbekistan for the numerous measures undertaken, including the creation of a legislative framework, with a view to effectively protecting children's rights and ensuring their wellbeing. We note that considerable efforts have been made to prevent and eliminate child labour and that educational system reforms also play a positive role in this regard.

We take cognizance of Uzbekistan's endeavours to safeguard women's rights and to eliminate discriminatory practices against women, including trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation, through public awareness-raising. We observe that gender equality has been achieved in some key sectors, such as in the completion of secondary school and in university enrolment.

Sri Lanka also takes note of progress made in the health sector, where reforms have increased the availability of mother and child health care. Also noteworthy is the attention that has been paid to combating HIV/AIDS.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to Uzbekistan:

1. Further strengthen efforts to ensure equal access of girls and women to all levels of education;
2. Increase international, regional and bilateral cooperation to prevent human trafficking;

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

Thank you.

Priyanga WICKRAMASINGHE
Counsellor