



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
17th session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Malaysia - 24 October 2013**

Mr President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Malaysia led by Her Excellency, Madam Ho May Yong, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the comprehensive national report and presentation today.

Sri Lanka congratulates Malaysia for having achieved the MDG target of poverty reduction well ahead of schedule.

We are pleased to note that since its first UPR in 2009, Malaysia has acceded to the two Optional Protocols to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

We welcome the priority given to the empowerment of women and their integration in national development.

We also welcome efforts to formulate a National Human Rights Action Plan.

Sri Lanka commends Malaysia for its commitment to provide quality and affordable education to its people. This is evident by the fact that the Government continues to allocate a significant portion of its annual budget (MYR 50 billion) to education and has also abolished all fees for primary and secondary schooling in its effort to further widen access to education.

Mr. President, my country wishes to make the following recommendations to Malaysia:

1. Reinforce measures to eradicate poverty across all segments of society, including among the indigenous community.
2. Step up measures to address the shortage of teachers especially in rural and remote areas.

In conclusion, Sri Lanka wishes Malaysia success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.