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Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
17th session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Nigeria – 22 October 2013

Mr President,

Sri Lanka, at the outset, welcomes the delegation of Nigeria to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the presentation this afternoon.

My delegation takes note of the developments in Nigeria since its first universal periodic review in 2009.

We welcome Nigeria's accession to the ICRMW and 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 take note of Nigeria's long-term economic transformation blueprint aimed at stimulating the country's economic growth and guaranteeing the well-being and productivity of all its people.

As a country that has only recently overcome a 30 year long struggle with terrorists, we fully understand and welcome efforts made by the Nigerian Government to address security challenges in the country. We note that the government has put in place an amnesty programme to dissuade terrorists and extremists from violence.

Sri Lanka appreciates the government's efforts to provide human rights education to the police and the military and understand that human rights education will also be integrated into the school curricula. We also take note of the impending launch of the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights covering 2014-2018.

Mr. President, my delegation wishes to make the following recommendations to Nigeria:

1. Strengthen efforts to eliminate exploitative child labour;
2. Continue to implement policies and programmes to prevent early school dropout of girls.

Finally, we wish Nigeria success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.