



## Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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

#### Review of Saudi Arabia - 21 October 2013

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia led by H.E. Mr. Bandar Bin Mohammed Al-Aiban to the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for its comprehensive national report and the presentation this morning.

We welcome the ratification of the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the ILO Minimum Age Convention (C138). We also note that the country's accession to the ICCPR and ICESCR are under consideration and hope that it will be able to ratify these two important conventions soon.

Sri Lanka is pleased to observe the measures being undertaken to promote the participation of women in public life. Noteworthy positives are measures enabling women to be part of political decision-making, increase in the number of women employed in the government sector and the education projects which have helped increase and diversify education opportunities for women and girls.

We also welcome public awareness raising measures with regard to the rights to domestic workers and labour laws. In this regard, we take note of the Regulation on domestic workers and persons of similar status which clarify the rights and obligations of both the employer and the domestic worker.

Mr President,

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to Saudi Arabia:

1. Strengthen measures with a view to ensuring the rights of migrant domestic workers;
2. Continue efforts to promote the empowerment of women and the protection of their rights.

In conclusion, we wish Saudi Arabia success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.