



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
18th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Cambodia- 28 February 2014**

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Cambodia led by to the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for its national report and the presentation today.

We take note of the developments in Cambodia since its first UPR in 2009 as outlined in the national report.

We congratulate Cambodia for the progress towards achieving MDGs, especially in the areas of promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Steps being taken by the government to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016 and efforts to reintegrate child workers into society are also laudable.

Sri Lanka is pleased to observe that Cambodia has made considerable progress in ensuring equitable access to education through its Education Strategic Plan, which prioritises policies on equitable access to education services and the promotion of educational quality and efficiency.

We commend the establishment of rehabilitation centres for vulnerable groups, including the homeless, which not only provide food and shelter but also health care, vocational training and training in life skills.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to Cambodia:

1. Continue efforts to achieve universal primary education, in line with the vision of the National Plan of "Education for All."
2. Strengthen efforts to reduce poverty in rural areas and bridge the wealth gap between rural and urban areas.

We wish Cambodia success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.

H.E. Ravinatha ARYASINHA