



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
18th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Cyprus - 4 February 2014**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka warmly welcomes the delegation of Cyprus to the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for its comprehensive national report and the presentation this morning.

We acknowledge the efforts taken by the Government of Cyprus to fulfil its international human rights obligations amidst the hardships and challenges that the country had to undergo due to the world financial crisis of 2009.

The government's efforts to incorporate a human rights spectrum in the school curriculum to combat and prevent discriminatory practices, including through teacher training on managing diversity and fighting discrimination, are welcome. Also timely is the new policy on multicultural education which aims to include non-native speaking pupils to the school system and society as a step forward in promoting human rights through education.

As a country which provides free healthcare for its people, Sri Lanka welcomes the steps taken by Cyprus to grant free health services to pregnant women and children belonging to vulnerable groups, notwithstanding budgetary restrictions.

While welcoming Cyprus' efforts in protecting the rights of migrants, such as its cooperation with the IOM to improve its immigration policy, Sri Lanka **recommends** to the government of Cyprus to further consolidate measures to promote and protect the rights of migrants, including through monitoring mechanisms and awareness raising of the public.

In conclusion, we wish Cyprus a successful UPR engagement.

Thank you.