



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

18th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

Review of Vanuatu- 30 January 2014

Mr. President,

My delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Vanuatu to the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for its national report and for its presence with us this morning.

Sri Lanka welcomes efforts taken by Vanuatu in the implementation of its international human rights commitments, in line with the accepted recommendations of the first cycle of the UPR, despite the many challenges and constraints.

We take note of the formulation of several policies and plans at national level in the areas of women's rights, education and health.

We are encouraged by measures to combat gender based violence; particularly noteworthy in this regard is the "no drop" policy adopted by the Public Prosecutor's Office with respect to cases of sexual offences and domestic violence which ensures that such cases are prosecuted and cannot be withdrawn even by the complainants.

Efforts by Vanuatu towards achieving adequate access to quality basic health are encouraging. We believe that health education and awareness raising are as crucial to improve health standards and welcome measures that are being taken to this end.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to Vanuatu:

1. Strengthen efforts to make further progress in the health-related MDGs;
2. Continue efforts to make education more accessible through a compulsory primary education policy.

We wish Vanuatu success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.

Priyanga Wickramasinghe