



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
19th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Costa Rica – 5 May 2014

Mr. President,

My delegation joins the earlier speakers in welcoming the delegation of Costa Rica to the UPR Working Group, and notes the contents of the national report and the presentation this morning.

Sri Lanka notes the efforts taken by Costa Rica to address violence against women in the country, including the several institutional and legislative measures, such as the establishment of a High Level Commission to monitor compliance with the Violence against Women Act and improving access to justice for victims.

We further note the difficulties faced by Costa Rica in relation to criminal organizations, drug markets and trafficking in persons and recognize the efforts taken by the Government to combat these scourges.

The increase of sexual exploitation and abuse of children and adolescents by abusive adults is disturbing and we recommend that the Government take immediate steps to strengthen measures to protect children from all forms of violence, including trafficking in children.

We understand that poverty, inequality as well as the accelerated growth of the older adult population has become a challenge to the development of human rights in the country. We recommend that the government take appropriate measures to address social inequality and disparities by paying particular attention to persons belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups and providing better access to education, health and employment.

Noting the progress that has been made with regard to the human rights of migrants and the challenges that still need to be addressed, it is also recommended that Costa Rica consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW).

Finally, we wish Costa Rica success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.