



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
19th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Ethiopia- 6 May 2014

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Ethiopia led by His Excellency Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the comprehensive national report and the additional information provided this morning.

My delegation welcomes the efforts taken by Ethiopia, including legislative reforms, strategies and programmes to promote the effective enjoyment of human rights by its citizens. We are also encouraged by the priority given to the protection of women and children at all levels, introducing strategies to promote gender mainstreaming in all sectors, including policy priorities for women's empowerment.

We note the 10.9 % annual average economic growth rate of GDP of the past decade and commend the commitment of the Government to eradicate poverty and ensure realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

Ethiopia has made encouraging progress in the achievement of MDGs with reduced child and maternal mortality rates. We believe that the programmes launched by the Government such as community based Revised National Nutrition Program (NNP) will contribute significantly to reduce malnutrition.

We recognize significant progress made in education such as the increased school enrolment and literacy rates demonstrating the Government's sustained efforts to reduce inequality by expanding the public education system equitably, backed by sufficient resources and improved quality and efficiency of education services.

Sri Lanka makes the following recommendations to Ethiopia for its consideration:

1. Continue to undertake effective plans/programmes to ensure the achievement of MDGs especially in terms of health through measures to increase access to health services to the public;
2. Continue strengthening small and medium scale enterprises to create more jobs opportunities for the youth;
3. Further strengthen measures to enhance the participation of women in decision-making.

Finally, we wish Ethiopia success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.