



74

Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
19th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Nicaragua - 7 May 2014

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka joins earlier speakers in welcoming the delegation of Nicaragua to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the comprehensive national report and the presentation this afternoon. We welcome the progress that has been made in the country since the first cycle of the UPR.

Sri Lanka acknowledges the measures that have been taken by Nicaragua to fully realize the economic, social and cultural rights of its people. We recognize the efforts of the Government to address the issue of poverty and social inequality resulting in the decrease in general poverty rates during the period under consideration. We **recommend** that the Government further strengthen measures to combat poverty, while paying particular attention to persons belonging to vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and people in rural areas.

Significant progress has been made in ensuring the rights of children, including their right to education. We are encouraged by the high enrolment rates and the reduction of the illiteracy rate to 3 per cent by 2013.

We also welcome efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and the significant increase in their participation in politics and decision-making. We **recommend** that Nicaragua continue its policies to combat violence against women and take further steps to promote their access to justice.

In conclusion, we wish Nicaragua success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.