



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

Mr. President,

At the outset, the delegation of Sri Lanka wishes to welcome the delegation of Qatar and thanks it for its national report and update. We congratulate Qatar for the achievements and the progress made in the follow up to its first UPR.

Sri Lanka notes that during the period under consideration, there have been numerous developments with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights in terms of legislation, institutions and implementation of policies. We would like to ask Qatar what efforts are being made by the Government to further protect and ensure the right to health for all in accordance with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Development Strategy 2011-2016?

Qatar has taken a holistic approach to the advancement of the family as a strong and cohesive unit, providing the family with support, welfare and protection. We note that the Government has adopted various legislative, policy and strategic measures aimed at combating domestic violence, sexual assault and the exploitation of women and children.

Qatar has also made progress in the promotion of rights of migrant workers such as adoption of measures and legislative procedures requiring employers to ensure migrant workers the minimum rights established under the Labour Act. We commend the Government for developing various procedures with a view to protecting female domestic workers in particular, as outlined in the national report, such as the verification of domestic workers' employment contracts in order to guarantee the rights set forth therein. We consider this initiative of the Government as a significant development in this area.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to Qatar:

1. Continue efforts to improve the status of women in society, promote gender equality at all levels, thereby enhancing their contribution to the development process;
2. Continue to strengthen measures to combat human trafficking and child labour.

Finally, we wish Qatar success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.