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**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
20th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Egypt - 5 November 2014**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka extends a warm welcome to the High Level delegation from Egypt and thanks them for the update.

At the outset, Sri Lanka wishes to recognize Egypt's significant achievements, in the promotion and protection of human rights. We are encouraged by the qualitative transformation towards improving the human rights situation in Egypt through the amended Constitution in January 2014, while noting that an entire chapter has been devoted to this area, including the basic freedoms of belief, thought, opinion, scientific research, and artistic and literary creativity.

Sri Lanka welcomes the Egyptian Government's action in lifting of the state of emergency on 14 November 2013.

We note Egypt's steady progress in safeguarding economic, social and cultural rights of its citizens, especially the right to housing, health, education and improving the status of women.

As a country which has suffered from terrorism for almost three decades, Sri Lanka shares the pain and anguish of the Egyptian people resulting from recent brazen acts of terrorism. In this regard, we are encouraged by the drafting of a bill which commits to combating all forms of terrorism without prejudice to public rights and freedoms.

My delegation recommends Egypt to continue efforts to:

1. Ensure effective accountability for perpetrators of violence against women;
2. Urge business enterprises and private sector to participate in the process of comprehensive human development, based on the principle of corporate social responsibility including through voluntary and philanthropy initiatives;
3. Continue the implementation of measures aimed at promoting the enjoyment of human rights by youth.

Finally, we wish Egypt success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.