



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review  
Review of El Salvador - 27 October 2014

Mr. President,

Sri Lankan delegation joins the earlier speakers in welcoming the delegation of El Salvador led by ..... to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the comprehensive national report and the presentation this afternoon. We congratulate El Salvador for the achievements and the progress made in its follow up to its first UPR.

Sri Lanka takes note of the initiatives taken by the Government of El Salvador to combat poverty and social exclusion in the country, including the enactment of the Social Development and Protection Act in 2014, keeping in mind that inequality and inequity are challenges to the development of human rights in the country. We are encouraged by the recognition given to health as a fundamental human right and commend the progress made in reducing maternal mortality rate, as an achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goal.

We commend the focus of the Government on the promotion and protection of the human rights of children through effective implementation of the Child and Adolescent Protection Act and the National Policy on Comprehensive Protection for Children and Adolescents, and strategies to prevent and deal with violence of any kind against children and adolescents based on the principle of equality.

We are also cognizant of the efforts taken by the Government of El Salvador to ensure the human rights of women in the country, including the launch of the National Policy on Women, the National Plan for Equality and Equity for Salvadoran Women, the national framework for equality, the Special Act on a Violence-Free Life for Women, recognizing women as rights holders and defining femicide and other crimes related to gender-based violence. We also take special note of the Education Act and the amendment to the Act on the Teaching Profession to facilitate the detection and prevention of gender violence in schools.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to El Salvador:

1. Further strengthen institutional and legislative measures to address inequality and disparities affecting persons belonging to vulnerable groups particularly in rural areas, in terms of access to education, health and employment;
2. Intensify its ongoing actions to eliminate discrimination against women at all levels in the society.

Finally, we wish El Salvador success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.