



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
20th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Iran- 31 October 2014

Mr. President,

The delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the High Level delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expresses appreciation for its national report and update, which provide an overview of the efforts being undertaken in the further promotion and protection of human rights in Iran.

Sri Lanka is pleased to note that the Government of Iran has been making steady progress in the promotion and protection of fundamental rights and freedoms as well as economic development in the country. We are encouraged by the progressive work carried out on the Bill for the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution, the National Strategic Action Plan on Human Rights and the draft Charter of Citizen's Rights which is based on the existing laws and international rules on human rights.

We take special note of the importance given by the Government to strengthen the foundation of family, as manifested through initiatives such as the adoption of the Family Protection Act (2012) and developing a Comprehensive Family Development Plan. We are also encouraged by the extensive measures taken by Iran to improve health and education, fight poverty, create jobs, provide security and fight violence against women and improve the status of women in the political, social and cultural fields.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka condemns the use of unilateral sanctions against countries, to impose policy change. Such action has led to hindering the enjoyment of economic, cultural and social rights, in particular the right to development, of the people of targeted countries. Such arbitrary measures are contrary to the UN Charter and is inconsistent with all human rights norms and standards. We note the resilience exercised by Iran in the wake of such serious challenges and its unwavering determination to fight terrorism and narcotics.

Sri Lanka firmly believes that the UPR process, which is a state-driven mechanism, is the appropriate platform to address all human rights issues of member States in a fair, equal and balanced manner. It allows for a constructive, non-confrontational, non-politicized and non-selective, approach based on dialogue and cooperation among member States. Accordingly, we believe that providing our objective assessment in this UPR is the most constructive means of assisting the Government of Iran in addressing issues of concern.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to therefore make the following suggestions to Iran :

1. Continue efforts in order to increase participation of women in political, public and professional spheres;
2. Continue its national policy to promote equal opportunities and treatment with respect to employment;
3. Continue to allocate more resources in the area of sport for all youth;
4. Continue its efforts to provide development and humanitarian aid to least developed countries.

Finally, we wish Iran success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.