



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Review of Iraq-3 November 2014**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Iraq to the UPR Working Group and expresses appreciation for the comprehensive national report and the presentation.

We acknowledge the commitment shown by the Government of Iraq to enhance promotion and protection of human rights as stated in the national report. We are pleased to note that Iraq has given due importance to the nine voluntary commitments and 135 accepted recommendations during the first UPR cycle, and has incorporated them in the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

We are encouraged by the efforts of the Iraqi Government to guarantee economic, social and cultural rights, notwithstanding the challenges and difficulties arising from the security situation in the country. We note that national projects such as the National Development Plan (2013-2017) aims at achieving a number of economic and social rights and identifies priorities, including the need to focus on the neediest on progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Also noteworthy are the development of policies, programmes and plans aimed at raising the living standards of vulnerable groups such as the comprehensive plan for 2013 that provided for the conduct of studies aimed at improving the situation of displaced families and facilitating their return. We encourage the efforts of the Government of Iraq to further engage in strategic consultations in partnership and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental bodies for assistance in this regard.

We also acknowledge a number of initiatives aimed at the advancement of women in Iraq, especially the creation of the High Commission for Family

Protection and the adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women in 2013.

My delegation welcomes the continued efforts by the Government of Iraq to combat terrorism and to curtail the impact of the violent acts perpetrated by terrorist groups, including the adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Terrorism which gives top priority to human rights considerations when handling such issues and developing security capabilities.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendation to Iraq:

Further enhance measures, in cooperation with the international community, to protect and promote the rights of the child, including through strengthening the educational system and the provision of adequate food, housing and health services.

Finally, we wish Iraq success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.