



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
20th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Italy - 27 October 2014

New Version

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Mr. President,

At the outset, the delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Italy and expresses appreciation for its national report and update. We congratulate Italy for the achievements and the progress made in the follow up to its first UPR.

We acknowledge the considerable efforts of the Italian Government to ensure the rights of migrant workers and asylum seekers with regard to immigration and integration policies including the establishment of Special Funds for health care and education facilities of migrants, and the introduction of laws which provide for the decriminalization of illegal migration. We particularly commend the steps taken by Italy to manage migrant flows by entering into agreements with countries on annual quotas of employment permits, to match the national demand and supply, and wish to recommend that Italy continues its efforts to adopt further action to prohibit discrimination in employment especially among immigrants. We recommend Italy to consider adopting legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment, and to take further measures to reduce unemployment especially among immigrants. We also urge Italy in this respect, to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families (ICRMW).

We also welcome the special importance given by the Italian Government to protect victims of trafficking and take note of effective measures taken to combat trafficking in persons, including the ratification of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in 2014.

We commend efforts of the Government of Italy on the adoption of the National Action Plan against Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in 2013, aimed at supporting national and local policies to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia and intolerance and at promoting a multi-ethnic, multicultural open and democratic society, in compliance with international and European obligations. However, we note that significant challenges still remain in the areas of ensuring equal access to education, healthcare and housing for the Roma and the Sinti communities. We recommend Italy to consider taking further measures to combat all forms of discrimination against the Roma community, and ensure equal opportunities for the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including education, health and housing.

Finally, we wish Italy success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.