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**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
20th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Slovenia – 04 November 2014.**

Mr. President,

At the outset, the delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Slovenia and expresses appreciation for its national report and update.

We acknowledge the ongoing efforts of Slovenian Government to enhance the legal and institutional frameworks for human rights protection. These include the incorporation of the Human Rights Ombudsman under Group A of the Paris Principles relating to the status of National Human Rights Institutions and amendments to the Criminal Code on definition of the offences of terrorism and trafficking in human beings.

Sri Lanka is aware of the difficulties faced by Slovenia due to the economic crisis which impacted social rights in the country. We are concerned in this context to note that the number of people at risk of poverty has been increasing since 2009 due to increasing unemployment and diminished income among the general population. We encourage the Government of Slovenia to take effective measures to safeguard the rights and status of the most vulnerable population groups, through focused social assistance and income support.

We welcome a number of policy measures that have been taken to promote the rights of women, children and youth. These include legislation stipulating a minimum quota of women and increasing the share of women in political decision-making positions. We take note of the special importance given by the Government of Slovenia to combat trafficking of persons through preventive measures such as awareness-raising projects among the general public especially targeting high risk groups.

We commend the efforts of the Government of Slovenia to protect the rights of the Roma community including the National Programme of Measures for Roma People (2010-2015) and amendments to the 2007 Roma Community Act.

We recommend that Slovenia:

1. Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of migrant Workers and Their Families (ICRMW);
2. Take further measures to combat all forms of discrimination against the Roma community, and ensure equal opportunities for their enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including education, health, employment and housing.

Finally, we wish Slovenia success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.