



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
21st Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of the State of Kuwait - 28 January 2015**

Mr. President,

The delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes warmly, the high level delegation from the State of Kuwait and extends appreciation to Kuwait for its comprehensive national report and engagement this afternoon. The positive steps and progress achieved in following up on recommendations in its first UPR are noteworthy.

Sri Lanka observes the mechanisms introduced by Kuwait in for promoting and protecting human rights, including the establishment of the Kuwaiti National Assembly's Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, the Public Anti-Corruption Authority, and the Public Authority for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities.

We recognize the number of initiatives taken by the State to ensure the human rights of women, in particular, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women by adopting the Private Sector Labour Law in 2010. This confirms the principle of equal pay for work of equal value regardless of gender and the employer's obligation to provide security and transport for female employees on night shift as well as the prohibition of the employment of women in dangerous or hazardous industries. We note the Supreme Council Judiciary Decision No. 14/2013 concerning the acceptance of 22 female applicants for employment in the judiciary.

Sri Lanka also notes the promulgation of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Act in 2013, which was guided by the provisions of the two protocols on the prevention of trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to Kuwait:

1. Consider taking additional steps to promote economic development and a higher standard of living.
2. Develop plans to promote human development programmes in the State of Kuwait

Finally, we wish Kuwait success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.