



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
21st session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Sweden- 26th January 2015

Mr. President,

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

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka appreciates the efforts by the Swedish Government to promote the rights of children, including the implementation of an action plan in 2014 for the protection of children against human trafficking, exploitation and sexual assault, including measures to improve knowledge, support, protection and monitoring. Noting that the Swedish Government is actively engaged in preventing child sex tourism, we **recommend that the ongoing measures for combating child sex tourism are expedited.**

The special importance given by the Government of Sweden in promoting gender equality as a political priority in the country is welcomed. However, despite the high rate of female labour force participation, we note with concern challenges that still remain to prevent gender pay gap, unequal career opportunities, and under-representation of women in executive positions. We wish to **recommend that Sweden takes concrete action to reduce the gender gap in decision-making positions and also to ensure equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value.**

While Sri Lanka notes the considerable efforts by the Swedish Government to strengthen formal protection against discrimination, including the establishment of the Office of the Equality Ombudsman Discrimination Act of 2009, we note with concern that challenges still remain in combatting discrimination at all levels in society. Therefore it is **recommended that Sweden explores ways and means of strengthening the ongoing efforts to combat all forms of discrimination to improve the scope of protection against discrimination at all levels in society.**

In conclusion, we wish Sweden success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.