



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
21st Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Turkey- 27 January 2015

Mr. President,

At the outset, the delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Turkey and appreciates the presentation of the national report and update to this Council.

Among the many positive developments reported, we welcome the major legal reforms that have been introduced since the first cycle of the UPR. These include the Institution of the Ombudsman, the individual application system to the Constitutional Court, the six "Judicial Reform Packages" adopted by the Parliament, and the "Law on Ending Terrorism and Strengthening Social Integration" which entered into force in July 2014.

We note the holistic approach taken by Turkey in the advancement of the family as a strong and cohesive unit and the provision of family support and welfare and protection. These have been achieved through the establishment of a dedicated Ministry for Family and Social Policies in 2011 which is commendable. The wide range of legislative and policy measures including programmes aimed at ensuring the welfare of all children, promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination and exploitation against women, particularly through the introduction of the Law on the Protection of Family and Prevention of Violence Against Women (no. 6284) on 20 March 2012 deserves praise.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations for the consideration of the delegation of Turkey:

1. Efforts to improve the status of women, including measures for gender equality at all levels in society with a view to enhancing their contribution to the national development processes must continue.
2. Further steps should be explored with a view to strengthening domestic measures to combat human trafficking and child labour.

The delegation of Sri Lanka wishes the delegation of Turkey success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.