



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
22nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Jamaica - 13 May 2015

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Jamaica to the UPR Working Group and expresses appreciation for the presentation.

Notwithstanding the frequent adverse impact of climate change that challenges the country, the remarkable strides Jamaica has made through "*Vision 2030 Jamaica's National Development Plan (2009-2030)*" are noteworthy. The National Development Plan envisages four goals of empowering its citizens, creating a cohesive and just society, a prosperous economy and a healthy natural environment.

Sri Lanka commends the free access to public health care and the free and compulsory primary education, as well as the social assistance programmes of the Government of Jamaica, including the Health and Education (PATH), programme launched in 2002.

Sri Lanka takes note of the commitment of the Government of Jamaica to strengthen its legal and policy frameworks with a view to combat gender-based violence, including the recently finalized National Strategic Plan of Action to Eliminate Gender-based Violence in Jamaica (NSPA-GBV). Sri Lanka acknowledges the significant progress Jamaica has made in enhancing gender equality. The country is ranked with the highest proportion of women managers globally, 59.3%, having increased proportions of women in senior and middle management positions and in politics.

The legislative and policy measures ensuring the protection of children's rights, including the review of Child Care and Protection Act (2004) is a forward step in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Sri Lanka would like to make the following recommendations for consideration by Jamaica:

1. Continue measures to increase access to health services for all, and enhance quality while giving special attention to the groups in vulnerable situations;
2. Further strengthen efforts to prevent sexual exploitation of children.

Finally, we wish Jamaica success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.