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Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
22nd session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Malawi - 5th May 2015

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka welcomes the distinguished delegation of Malawi, a fellow member of the Commonwealth family, to this 22nd session of the UPR and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the delegation for the comprehensive and inclusive national report.

We are pleased to note the positive developments that have been taking place in Malawi in promotion and protection of human rights since its first review, including the important legislative reforms that are in process. We note with interest the remarks by the Commonwealth election observers that the Presidential, Parliament and Local elections (the tripartite elections) held in 2014 were peaceful, orderly and transparent.

With a view to further strengthen the on-going efforts of Malawi to secure the rights of the Child, through the inclusive participation of various sectors of the Government, Sri Lanka **recommends** Malawi to expedite its work on the formulation and implementation of the National Plan of Action for Vulnerable Children, which aims at benefitting 1.8 Million vulnerable children in Malawi.

We also note the steps taken to ensure the rights of women, including the 'Gender Equality Act of 2013' and **recommend** Malawi to develop implementation guidelines and to provide necessary budgetary support for the full realization of the Act, in order to empower women.

Further, Sri Lanka believes that investment in the education sector is an essential step in the path to development of a country. In this spirit, we **encourage** Malawi to consider compulsory primary free education for all, with equal access to girls and boys, and to improve related infrastructure facilities.

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

Thank you.