



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review  
Review of Maldives - 6 May 2015**

Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation extends a warm welcome to the high-level delegation of Maldives to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the comprehensive national report and presentation this afternoon. We note the achievements and the progress made by Maldives in its follow-up to the first UPR.

Sri Lanka is pleased to note that out of the total of 126 recommendations that the Maldives has received during its first UPR, it accepted 89, while partially accepting 11. As reported to this assembly, Maldives, has, up to date, implemented a total of 58 accepted recommendations and 32 other proposals are at various stages of implementation. This signifies the commitment of the Maldives to work with this Council and to engage constructively with other partners.

We observe that since the enactment of the current Constitution of Maldives in 2008, which includes an extensive bill of rights, the country has made progress. However, Sri Lanka would like to stress the importance of upholding the rule of law and observing due process at all times.

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka acknowledges the ongoing efforts by the Government of Maldives to formulate a National Migration Management Policy and hopes that it will enable the Government to successfully address the new dynamics in migration flows. In this regard we welcome the initiatives by Maldives to accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families ( ICRMW). In this context, the formulation of the 'National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons for 2015-2019', and the establishment of the Anti-Human trafficking Unit in 2013 are concrete measures taken by the Maldivian Government to coordinate national efforts in countering illegal and organized crimes related to trafficking in persons.

We recommend Maldives;

- a) to identify the challenges in implementing its National Migration Management policy and,
- b) to expeditiously implement the Anti-Trafficking Act and provide facilities and necessary assistance to the victims, in particular women and children.

Mr. President,

As a fellow South Asian country, Sri Lanka congratulates the Maldives on its achievements towards realizing the MDG goals, in particular those related to health such as reducing maternal mortality rate to 13 per 100,000 births, and child mortality to 9 per 1000 live births and combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases. We note the Social Health Insurance Act (2012) that introduced universal health care and the Tobacco Control Act (2010), which further strengthened public health and public health education in the country. **We recommend Maldives to Strengthen the existing healthcare system to enhance access to health services by all with special emphasis on preventing life threatening illnesses and incidents.**

We take note of the Government's policy of zero tolerance for violence against women and harassment through legal and normative measures such as the adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act of 2012, which marked the first of many laws tailored towards the prevention of violence against women. **We recommend Maldives to take further measures for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights, ensuring women's participation and gender responsiveness within the policies of the government and other agencies.**

In conclusion Mr. President,

We wish Maldives success in its efforts.

Thank you.