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Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
23rd session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Australia- 09th November 2015

Mr. President,

At the outset, the delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the high level delegation of Australia and expresses appreciation for its national report and the update provided today. We note the extensive consultations carried out by Australia, in the process of the preparations of its national report.

The ratification of most of the core international human rights instruments, the active National Human Rights Commission, and the vibrant and innovative civil society bear testimony to the commitments of the Government of Australia in promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

Sri Lanka welcomes the initiatives taken by the Government of Australia in securing the rights of indigenous persons, particularly the proposed referendum to recognise Indigenous Australians in the Constitution. We note that Australia has been a host country for a large number of migrants of diverse origin and we acknowledge the challenges associated with providing welfare for migrants and protecting their rights through a national system.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to Australia, to further strengthen its commitments towards the promotion and protection of human rights;

- Continue its ongoing efforts towards promotion and protection of rights of indigenous persons, through law and practice, including by giving constitutional recognition.
- Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their families

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

Thank you