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**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
23rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Austria- 9 November 2015**

Mr. President,

At the outset, Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Austria and expresses its appreciation for its national report and update. We congratulate Austria for the achievements and the progress made in the follow up to its first UPR.

We note the efforts taken by the Austrian Government to ensure the protection of human rights of its citizens through improvements in the policies and institutional frameworks guaranteed by constitutional and legislative process, during the review period. We also take note of the expansion of the mandate of the Austrian Ombudsman Board (AOB) in 2012 as a progressive measure to prevent and monitor human rights.

We recognize measures to protect groups in vulnerable situations such as women and children, from all forms of violence. In this regard, the adoption of the National Action Plan on the Protection of Women against Violence (2014-2016) in 2014 as well as the amendment to the Security Police Act in 2013, are noteworthy developments.

We commend Austria for steps taken to implement its 4th National Action Plan (NAP) on the Fight against Human Trafficking (2015-2017) adopted in March 2015 and strengthening information campaigns, training of professionals, victim support and international cooperation, with a special emphasis on the issues of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.

We recommend Austria to:

1. Strengthen efforts to ensure gender equality in the workplace and implement measures to enhance representation of women at senior level and managerial positions in government and other sectors;
2. Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their families.
3. Continue to strengthen institutional mechanisms to address violence against women and children and to further ongoing efforts in the field of combating human trafficking.

Finally, we wish Austria success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.