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Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
23rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Lebanon- 2 November 2015

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Lebanon to the UPR Working Group and thanks them for its comprehensive national report and the presentation this afternoon.

We recognize the difficulties and challenges faced by Lebanon over the past several years, which have had an adverse impact on its socio-economic development, and wish to congratulate Lebanon for the progress made since its first UPR, despite such difficulties. We note that the country has enacted several legislations to safeguard the economic, social and cultural rights of its people.

In particular, Sri Lanka welcomes the considerable efforts made by the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the right to health and also the inclusion of gender equality with regard to access to health care facilities. As a result of the quantitative and qualitative improvement of medical services and the increase in preventive and awareness-raising activities, Lebanon has recorded a notable decline in maternal and infant mortality and an increase in life expectancy for both men and women (from 67 to 80 years), during the period 1990-2012.

Further, we are also encouraged by several institutional and legislative measures taken to ensure the right to education, including the Act No. 150 of 17 August 2011 which made basic education compulsory, and free of charge in public schools, for all students regardless of their gender.

The adoption of Law No. 293 on the protection of women and other household members against domestic violence in 2014 and the National Strategy to Safeguard and Protect Children against All Forms of Violence and Exploitation in 2012 are also noteworthy.

We also recognize the considerable efforts taken by the Government of Lebanon to combat trafficking in persons, including Law No. 164 of 2011 on Punishment of Human Trafficking Offenses.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations to Lebanon:

1. Strengthen efforts to improve the well-being of women migrant workers in Lebanon and their rights;
2. Further strengthen measures to protect children and women from all forms of violence.

Finally, we wish Lebanon success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.