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**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**  
**Review of Mauritania- 03<sup>rd</sup> November 2015**

Mr. President,

At the outset, the delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Mauritania and expresses appreciation for its national report and the update provided.

While being cognizant of the challenges faced by the country, we wish to commend Mauritania for the positive developments that have taken place in the human rights front, since the adoption of its last UPR in 2010. We note, in particular, criminalizing slavery as a crimes against humanity, the creation of the anti-slavery court in May 2015, and other progressive national efforts taken by the country following the 2012 constitutional review. We **recommend** Mauritania to intensify it's efforts to totally eliminate slavery and slavery-like practices in the country.

Access to health and education remains a primary requirement in implementing the rights of the child, and we commend Mauritania for actions taken towards this end including higher enrolment of girls in schools, and improved vaccination programmes for various diseases. In this context we wish to **recommend** that the Government of Mauritania considers further improving access to health and education, with a focus on;

- a.) Improving maternal and new born health facilities.
- b.) Expanding the secondary and tertiary education opportunities for all.

Finally, we wish Mauritania success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.