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**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review  
Review of Myanmar - 6 November 2015**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of Myanmar to the UPR Working Group and appreciates the comprehensive national report and the briefing this morning.

Despite facing several complex and delicate challenges, we note the efforts by Myanmar to make its democratic space more inclusive through gradual transition and political reforms in the country.

We also note the signing of the Nation-wide Ceasefire Agreement on 15 October as a significant milestone with regard to the on-going national reconciliation and peace process and hope that the upcoming General Elections scheduled for 8 November 2015 will galvanize the ongoing democratization process in Myanmar.

Sri Lanka recognizes the progress made by Myanmar, especially in implementing the recommendations received from the first cycle of the UPR. One of the significant institutional developments is the establishment of the Human Rights Commission of Myanmar in 2011 and the enactment of the National Human Rights Commission Law in March 2014 in line with the Paris Principles.

Sri Lanka commends the efforts made by Myanmar in the realization of focused economic development plans through a Five- Year Plan, envisaging the country to graduate from the LDC status, and to attain an annual economic growth of 7.7%.

Sri Lanka also welcomes action taken to ensure the rights of the child such as the enactment of the Law Relating to the Early Childhood Care and Development in February 2014 and the adoption of the multi-sectoral policy in 2014 for all round development of children under-eight, resulting in a decrease in infant mortality and under-five mortality rates in Myanmar.

Sri Lanka wishes to make the following recommendations:

- Take necessary further steps to combat poverty and to address socio-economic inequality;
- Continue efforts to develop its human capital through education, training and empowering vulnerable groups.

Finally, we wish Myanmar success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.