



Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Universal Periodic Review  
Review of Nepal- 04<sup>th</sup> November 2015

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Mr. President,

At the outset, the delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the high level delegation of Nepal and expresses appreciation for its comprehensive national report and the update provided.

Nepal has undergone many challenges in the recent past including an armed conflict and a devastating earthquake early this year. In this backdrop, the commitment and the efforts of the Government of Nepal to promote and protect human rights in the country need to be acknowledged. Especially as a fellow South Asian country, we congratulate Nepal and her people on the promulgation of a new Constitution last month, and hope that it will pave the way to strengthen national mechanisms for promotion and protection of all human rights for all citizens. We also congratulate Nepal on the election of the first woman President of the country.

We note that Nepal has given priority to incorporate human rights perspective in dealing with disasters and related humanitarian crises. We hope that the envisaged planning of urbanisation and organised settlements and other institutional measures would strengthen its efforts for more coherent disaster risk management strategies in the country.

Sri Lanka welcomes the policy initiatives made by Nepal towards the realisation of the right to education. The noted improvements in the net enrolment rate to schools, as well as improved literacy rates manifest the effectiveness of these initiatives. To ensure further success, we encourage and **recommend** the Government of Nepal to consider expediting its work on the draft Bill to make basic education compulsory and free. We also note the achievements in the areas of health related MDG, and **recommend** these efforts be further accelerated aiming at decreasing the infant, child and maternal mortality rates and increasing average life expectancy.

Considering the financial and resource constraints the country is facing, we encourage the international community to partner with the Government of Nepal to provide all possible assistance, on the request and in consultation with Nepal, to realise its human rights objectives.

As a close friend and a fellow member of SAARC, we wish Nepal all success in its UPR engagement. Thank you.