



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
23rd session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Rwanda - 04th November 2015**

Mr. President,

At the outset, the delegation of Sri Lanka welcomes the high level delegation of Rwanda led by Honourable Johnston Busingye, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Republic of Rwanda to this UPR session and expresses appreciation for its comprehensive national report and the active engagement.

We welcome the progress made in Rwanda since its first UPR, and note that it has implemented or is in the process of implementing 63 recommendations out of the 67 it has accepted. Rwanda has extended a standing invitation to all UN Special procedure mandate holders and its engagement with the UN Treaty Body mechanisms are encouraging signs of Rwanda's positive engagement with the UN human rights system.

Education and raising awareness is an important step in ensuring human rights. In this regard, we recognize the efforts made by Rwanda, through its National Commission for Human Rights targeting all sectors of the society. We also note the increased budgetary provisions allocated to the Commission to facilitate its programmes.

Sri Lanka also notes that the Government of Rwanda has established the National Commission for Children, which has made commendable progress in the area of ensuring the right to education. The Government has also made constructive efforts to overcome the indirect barriers affecting school attendance, an example is the provision of social protection schemes. Empowering children with ICT skills and improved access to information through the 'one laptop per child' project are certainly developments in the right direction. We also note the progress made in the country in the health sector, particular in the area of maternal and child health and immunization programmes. We encourage Rwanda to continue these efforts.

We hope the positive actions underway by the Government to align its policies and programmes with economic development and poverty reduction would help the country to achieve the desired results.

Sri Lanka wishes to place the following recommendations to Rwanda;

- Continue to strengthen its ongoing efforts in the education system, to ensure quality universal primary and secondary education for all children,
- Reinforce the socio – economic development policies, with particular focus on poverty reduction and food security.

Finally we wish Rwanda success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.