



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
25th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of Ireland - 11 May 2016**

Mr. President,

We welcome the delegation of Ireland and express appreciation for the national report and update provided.

We acknowledge the ongoing efforts of the Irish Government to enhance the legal and institutional frameworks for human rights protection. The establishment of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) in November 2014, which has been accorded "A" status as a national human rights institution (NHRI) is one of the noteworthy developments in this regard.

We note the constitutional guarantee established by the Irish Government to recognize children as individual rights holders, following the 2012 referendum. In this regard, we also note that the Government has taken several progressive legislative measures to ensure the rights of the child including the child and family agency (Tusla) in 2014.

It is extremely encouraging to note that Ireland's comprehensive welfare system and poverty reduction efforts for protecting the unemployed and vulnerable groups, has resulted in the reduction of the country's unemployment rate from over 15% in 2012 to 8.6%, in 2015 thus bringing the country's at-risk-of-poverty rate below the EU average.

We acknowledge the continued action taken by Irish Government to protect the rights of migrant workers including the development of a migrant integration strategy, which focuses on promoting intercultural awareness and combatting racism and xenophobia.

We take note of measures taken by the Government of Ireland to combat human trafficking, including by amending the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 and drafting a National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking with a comprehensive child-sensitive protection system.

We recommend that Ireland:

1. Continue measures to protect the rights of migrant workers, including combatting racism, xenophobia and religious intolerance, and as a further gesture of its commitment, consider ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and the welfare of Their Families (ICRMW);
2. Continue to take effective measures to safeguard the rights and status of the unemployed and vulnerable groups, through focused social assistance and income support.

Finally, we wish Ireland success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.