

**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

**27th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of South Africa – 10 May 2017**

Mr. President,

My delegation extends a warm welcome to the delegation of South Africa to the UPR Working Group and expresses appreciation for the comprehensive national report and the additional information provided this morning.

My delegation takes note of the legislative and policy measures undertaken by South Africa in particular through the implementation of its National development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030 and the establishment of independent Constitutional bodies such as the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC).

We commend South Africa for its ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 2015, and note the progress made by the country in improving maternal health and life expectancy, and the increase of budget allocation by 5% of the GDP with a view of further improving access to education.

While taking note of the comprehensive measures taken by South Africa to ensure safety of women and children and to combat sexual violence including the establishment of Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units and Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCC) in order to reduce secondary victimization, **we would like to request the South African delegation to further elaborate their experience in finalizing a National Strategy which encourages an inter-sectoral approach to all matters relating to combating sexual offences.**

We welcome the efforts made for the adoption of the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act of 2013, which affords victims the right to claim compensation for damages, physical injuries and psychological harm suffered. **In this regard, Sri Lanka recommends that South Africa continues the on-going efforts to combat human trafficking and strengthen measures to protect victims of trafficking.**

**Sri Lanka also recommends that South Africa considers ratifying the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.**

We wish South Africa success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.