

Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

48th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

**UPR Review – Islamic Republic of Iran**

24 January 2025

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka welcomes the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and appreciates the presentation of its national report.

Sri Lanka takes note of the initiatives of the Government of Iran especially the ratification of the Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents, providing social insurance coverage for non-working mothers residing in rural areas, scheme for empowering and providing housing for female heads of household with financial needs and improving the food security of children.

Sri Lanka also welcomes Iran’s ‘Health System Transformation Plan’ with the aim of reducing the financial costs of health and improving the quality and fair access to medical services.

Measures taken by the Government of Iran in reducing the risks of natural disasters, environmental protection, pollution management, and climate change adaptation are also commendable

In a constructive spirit, Sri Lanka wishes to recommend the Government of Iran;

1. To accede to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment (CAT)
2. To accelerate the establishment of an independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in full accordance with the Paris Principles.
3. To continue efforts in reducing poverty, particularly in rural areas and ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities.
4. To ensure equitable access to quality education while reducing disparities in rural areas.
5. To enhance and modernise healthcare services with equitable access to affordable, high-quality medical care for all.
6. To uphold the rights of women and enhance efforts to provide equal opportunities for women in the workforce and strengthening women’s participation in economic activities.
7. Consider adopting a moratorium on the death penalty.

Sri Lanka wishes the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.