**UPR 28, November 15, 2017**

**Recommendations by Canada for Sri Lanka’s UPR**

Thank you, Mr. President. Canada acknowledges the initial steps taken by Sri Lanka to promote and protect human rights, including strengthening of the independence of the Human Rights Commission, institutionalization of the Office of Mission Persons, and cooperation with UN special procedures. We note that much work remains on accountability, transitional justice and reconciliation.

Canada recommends that Sri Lanka:

1. Ensure that Constitutional reforms guarantee equal protections, rights and treatment of all individuals, without distinction on any basis, including faith, gender, caste, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity or language.

1. Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and enforce an immediate moratorium on its use; ensure that the Counter-Terrorism Act, currently in draft form, is compliant with international human rights standards; charge, try or release all prisoners currently held under the PTA.
2. Accelerate the implementation of HRC 30/1 and of reconciliation measures to foster respect for human rights, including through the operationalization of the Office of Missing Persons, the ending of military involvement in civilian functions, the return of lands to its rightful civilian owners, and the establishment of a judicial mechanism with the involvement of foreign and Commonwealth prosecutors, investigators and judges.

1. Decriminalize same-sex conduct by repealing Sections 365 and 365A of the penal code.
2. Amend or repeal Article 16 of the Constitution and amend all Personal Laws to remove discriminatory provisions against women and remove barriers against women engaging in the political process and seeking elective offices.