**Intervention of Slovenia**

**Review of Sri Lanka**

**28th Session of UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 15 November 2017**

Mr President,

Slovenia wishes to thank the Delegation of Sri Lanka for their national report, its presentation today and expressed commitment to the UPR process.

We fully acknowledge the gradual progress made in Sri Lanka in terms of advancing the broader human rights agenda and restoring fundamental freedoms, including the undertaking by President Sirisena to introduce a new constitution, which is integral to reconciliation and the full enjoyment of human rights by all members of the population. We encourage and recommend Sri Lanka to fulfill all the commitments made on transitional justice, including through the creation of an accountability mechanism which is credible, victim-centric and supported by international practitioners and through full operationalization of independent and impartial work of the recently established Office of missing persons. In order that re-occurrence of similar atrocities caused by civil war can be minimized in the future, we would like to further recommend that Sri Lanka ratifies the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court.

We also welcome and encourage further steps for the inclusion of the human rights education in schools as a tool to enable social cohesion, alleviation of poverty, peace and prosperity in post-conflict areas and elsewhere in the country.

While noting the intention of Sri Lanka to establish a National Women's Commission and the overall improved situation of women's human rights in Sri Lanka, we nonetheless express concern about the persistence of sociocultural values that condone domestic and gender based violence, particularly in rural areas. In this regard we would like to recommend to Sri Lanka to adopt specific legislation that explicitly prohibits domestic violence, including marital rape, and to ensure its stringent implementation and enforcement.

Thank you!