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**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION**

**TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**42ND SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Review of SRI LANKA AT 09:00-12:30**

**1 FEBRUARY 2023**

**(65 Seconds)**

**speaker no:116**

***Check against delivery***

Mr. President,

South Africa welcomes the distinguished delegation of Sri Lanka to this UPR Session and wishes the country a successful review.

South Africa welcomes that Sri Lanka acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (Op-CAT) and designated the Human Rights Commission as the National Preventive Mechanism in 2017. It also enacted a law aimed at implementing the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

South Africa recommends that Sri Lanka:

* Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
* Put in place suitable mechanisms to prevent major health crises by sourcing essential medical supplies and medicines and ensuring the availability of immediate & essential lifesaving medical care;
* Ensure the Office on Missing Persons prioritizes, respects and facilitates the families’ rights to truth, justice and reparations without exerting pressure on them to close the cases on their missing relatives; and
* Ensure the socio-economic growth and address the marginalisation faced by the formerly stateless Tamils of Indian origin in the country.

I thank you.