**Statement by Romania**

**The 42nd session of the UPR Working Group: Review of Sri Lanka**

**February 1st, 2023**

Mr. President,

Romania welcomes Sri Lanka’s delegation and wishes it a successful outcome of the UPR.

We have taken positive note of efforts made towards developing a national policy on gender equality as well as of several legislative and policy steps aiming at strengthening national reconciliation, counter-terrorism measures or the right to information. We encourage Sri Lanka to expedite the envisaged measures planned for implementing previous recommendations.

Well aware of the socio-economic and financial hardship and other challenges people, especially those in vulnerable situations, are facing but also of their impact on the human rights’ realization, we would like to constructively recommend Sri Lanka to:

1. Step up articulated measures conducive to structural reforms in key areas critical for economic growth, social stability and the rule of law, while keeping the respect for human rights at their core;
2. Ensure that a new Human Rights National Action Plan is drafted in the follow-up of the previous one and that commitments not yet met are pursued and implemented, particularly those meant to protect against gross violations of human rights;
3. Review and repeal the discriminatory laws and policies which restrict equal access to the right to work for women.

Thank you, Mr. President!