

**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

**30th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Canada – 11 May 2018**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka expresses its appreciation to the delegation of Canada for the presentation of the national report under the 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and for the update provided.

We note the significant measures taken by the Government of Canada since its last UPR in the implementation of recommendations made by the member states.

We commend Canada for taking comprehensive measures to promote and protect the rights of its citizens, including practical steps taken aimed at improving the socio-economic profile of different communities, in particular, migrant communities. This includes advancements of economic, social and cultural rights at federal, provincial and territorial levels. We also acknowledge the important step taken by Canada in initiating a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in September 2016. We appreciate the challenges and difficulties Canada faces in its reconciliation efforts. We would like to see Canada share further information on the progress achieved as the process moves forward.

Sri Lanka acknowledges the action taken by Canada to ensure practical implementation of gender equality and the appointment of a gender equal federal cabinet. We would appreciate if Canada could share with this Council, its experience in the implementation of the federal GBA Action Plan 2016-2020 as well as various programmes and actions at provincial and territorial levels to promote gender equality. This would be a useful learning experience for others.

While noting the efforts made towards addressing poverty and homelessness, we encourage the Canadian Government to continue consultations in developing the Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy.

**In conclusion, Mr. President, Sri Lanka recommends that Canada:**

* Consider acceding to the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
* Continue to take steps to improve the conditions of migrant workers, including temporary and seasonal workers and their welfare
* Continue efforts to holistically address poverty and homelessness taking into consideration the needs of the most vulnerable communities, in particular indigenous communities.
* Continue the important work on reconciliation with Canada’s indigenous peoples by fulfilling the Government’s promise to implement all of the recommendations of the TRC in a timely manner; and
* Extend the mandate of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) national inquiry by two years to allow all victims to be heard.

We wish Canada success in its UPR engagement. Thank you.