

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

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

**Review of Colombia– 10 May 2018**

Mr. Vice President,

Sri Lanka extends a warm welcome to the High Level delegation from the Republic of Colombia and thanks the delegation for the informative presentation.

We greatly appreciate the significant achievements of the Republic of Colombia,- the signing of the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace in November 2016 and its progressive implementation. The peace agreement, we hope, will assure the effective exercise of people’s rights and provide space for advancing a Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice, Reparations and Non-Recurrence.

We note that among other positive developments is the accession by the Republic of Colombia to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, with effect from 2014.

My delegation recommends that the Republic of Colombia

-Continue to take concrete measures to reduce high ratios of maternal and infant mortality by improving access to quality health services;

-Further strengthen efforts to enhance education to improve literacy rates; and

- consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Sri Lanka commends Colombia’s continuing efforts to address challenges including in the social and economic fields and to strengthen humanitarian demining policy to support mine victims through the provision of health care, physical rehabilitation, reparation measures and also measures taken to educate people on mine risks. Colombia’s commitment to further improve health and educational standards should be supported by all stakeholders.

We wish the Republic of Colombia success in its UPR engagement and its transition towards a stable, reconciled and prosperous society. We look forward to learning from Colombia’s achievements. Thank you.