

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

**31st Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Mexico – 07 November 2018**

Mr. President,

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

We note with appreciation the enactment of the General Act of 2017 on Enforced Disappearance of Persons, Disappearance Perpetrated by Individuals and the National Search System for Missing Persons.

We commend Mexico for its commitment to eliminate discrimination through an amendment to the Federal Act on the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination. It is noteworthy that Mexico has expanded the list of discriminatory grounds, which will be prevented by law, including additional factors such as migration status and genetic characteristics.

The formulation of the National Programme for Equality of Opportunities and Non - Discrimination against Women 2013 – 2018 is also much appreciated. It is pertinent to observe that the National Programme would inform and inspire national gender equality policies and would bring a gender - perspective to the work and activities of all branches of government and autonomous bodies. Further the adoption of laws in the areas of transparency and access to public information, anti-corruption, prevention of torture is a significant step taken by Mexico in the advancement of the rule of law and human human rights.

We welcome the commitment to further improve health and educational standards of its people.

My delegation recommends that Mexico

-continue to prevent trafficking in children, particularly migrant and indigenous children and girls, for sexual exploitation and forced labour;

-continue to prevent difficulties and discriminatory practices that women faced when attempting to enter the labour market and prevent violence against women and girls with regular monitoring; and

-continue to reduce high child and maternal mortality rates among indigenous and rural populations and high maternal mortality among adolescents through strengthening health systems.

We wish Mexico success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.