

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

**32ndSession of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Viet Nam –22January 2019**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka extends a warm welcome to the delegation from Viet Nam, and thanks the delegation for the comprehensive presentation.

We wish to congratulate Viet Nam for having implemented 175 out of the 182 recommendations accepted during its previous review.

We welcome Vietnam’s ratification of the UN Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2015.

The initiative taken by the Government of Vietnam to amend and promulgate over 90 legislation in line with the strengthened constitutional protection of human rights, provided for under the 2013 Constitution, is particularly commendable.

Sri Lanka also takes positive note of the achievements made by Viet Nam in promoting the economic, social and cultural rights of all people, including through reduction of poverty across vulnerable groupssuch as minorities, increasing women’s participation in the workforce, stepping up welfare programmes for the elderly, and in ensuringenhanced access to clean water, education, housing and healthcare.

The legislative and policy-level interventions made by Viet Nam in recent years to protect and foster the rights of women, in particular through the 2015 Law on National Assembly and People's Council Elections, the 2016-2020 National Program on Gender Equality and the National Action Program on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence, deserves special mention.

While noting these achievements, Mr. President, Sri Lanka recommends that Viet Nam:

* Enhances activities aimed at encouraging the participation and contribution of the elderly in the community;
* Continues to implement measures to protect the rights of ethnic minorities to use their spoken and written language;
* Consider the ratification of the Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

We wish Viet Nam success in its UPR engagement.Thank you.