

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

**33rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Norway – 06 May 2019**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka warmly welcomes the delegation of Norway and appreciates its presentation of a comprehensive national report as well as its engagement with this Council today.

We commend the important measures taken by Norway in the field of Human Rights, particularly the adoption of a separate chapter on Human Rights in 2014, and the establishment of the Norwegian National Human Rights Institution in 2015. We welcome Norway's Action Plan for Universal Design 2015-2019 geared towards the individual needs of persons with disabilities as a progressive step.

Sri Lanka acknowledges Norway's global position on gender equality, and the high representation of women in leadership positions in the Government and public sector. We are also encouraged by Norway's assertion that more needs to be done in this regard such as addressing low representation of minority women in labour market.

We welcome the steps taken to examine the norwegianisation policy and the consequences for the Sami and Kven/Norwegian Finns. In this regard, we would appreciate to receive further information on the participatory nature of stakeholders in implementation of the commission's mandate.  While acknowledging the measures taken to improve the conditions of vulnerable communities such as migrants, indigenous populations and minority communities, we encourage further efforts to address any disparities, social or economic as well as the social-development indicators such as education and healthcare standards.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we recommend that Norway:

1. Continue to strengthen efforts to address hate crimes, intolerance, as well as incitement to hatred both online and offline through inclusive measures with the participation of all relevant stakeholders ;
2. Pursue further measures aimed at intensifying efforts to promote and protect the traditional way of life, including culture and language of indigenous populations and national minorities in Norway in consultation those communities ;
3. Continue with ongoing activities and programmes to address child poverty, through targeted interventions.

Finally, we wish Norway success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.