

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

**34th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Iran – 08 November 2019**

Mr. President,

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

We welcome the progress in the area of education, including the high rate of enrolment of children in primary and secondary schools and policy interventions for women’s empowerment, through ensuring higher education, government employment, business and entrepreneurship.

The implementation of the ‘Health System Development Plan’ through which it has achieved increased life expectancy at birth, reduced mortality rate of infants, children, pregnant mothers and control of non-communicable diseases deserves appreciation.

We appreciate the efforts taken by the Government of Iran to provide access to education, health care, livelihood and housing for refugees and asylum seekers, despite its own challenges.

Further we also note measures taken by Iran to improve the quality and access to the Internet resulting in the increase of internet users.

My delegation recommends that Iran:

-further strengthens its efforts to promote access to education for all, especially in rural areas, and reduce the number of school dropouts;

- continues measures leading to landmine clearance in its territory, with the support of international and national stakeholders;

-accelerates efforts towards eliminating child abuse and child labour, and ensuring that legal action is taken against perpetrators; and

- continues to strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in women, young girls and children with regular monitoring.;

- continues measures to protect and promote rights of migrant workers, in line with the relevant international instruments.

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