

**Statement by Sri Lanka**

**35th Session of the UPR**

**Review of Spain – 22 January 2020**

Mr. President,

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

We welcome the standing invitation extended by Spain to all Special Procedure mechanisms established by the HRC and the visit in January and February 2020 of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

Sri Lanka acknowledges the important measures taken by Spain to promote gender equality including the creation of a post of Ambassador at large for the promotion of Gender Equality and Reconciliation Policies in August 2018, the adoption of Royal Decree law No. 6/2019 which re-inforced the right of working people to equal pay as well as the lengthening of paternity leave for the duration of maternity leave.

We take this opportunity to recommend that Spain :

* Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
* Consider measures to reduce the high dropout and repetition rates in secondary education by addressing socioeconomic factors that may influence decisions to leave education prematurely.
* Take steps to provide irregular migrants with access to all necessary healthcare services.

Finally we wish Spain success in its UPR engagement.

Thank you.