



National Statement, delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative, Amb. Zaman Mehdi, during the 4th UPR Review of Sri Lanka (42nd Session of UPR) 01 February 2023

Mr. President,

We warmly welcome the delegation of Sri Lanka and thank it for presentation of its 4th UPR report.

Recognizing the gravity of COVID-19 related socio-economic challenges, we welcome Sri Lanka's efforts to strengthen its healthcare system and ensuring access of its people to the vaccine. We appreciate Sri Lanka's continued cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms.

We welcome the legislative, policy and administrative measures such as the enactment of the Prevention of Terrorism (Amendment) Act, No. 12 of 2022, 21st Amendment to the Constitution, and the measures under National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force.

In the spirit of constructive dialogue, we have the following recommendations:

- i. Continue pursuing efforts aimed at national reconciliation including through national initiatives;
- ii. Reinforce mechanisms to address obstacles to equal participation of women in political, economic and public life;
- iii. Further strengthen programs to ensure access to education for all children, especially those with disabilities.

We wish Sri Lanka a successful UPR.

I thank you!

