

3

**Statement of the delegation of Sri Lanka
the Universal Periodic Review of Myanmar
27 January 2011**

Mr President,

At the outset, the delegation of Sri Lanka wishes to welcome the high-level delegation of Myanmar led by the Deputy Attorney General and express its appreciation for the comprehensive statement, which provided an overview on the challenges faced, and efforts being undertaken to promote and protect human rights in Myanmar.

Myanmar's approach to the UPR process incorporating an inter-ministerial and inter agency process which involved cross-sectoral representation as well as through broad consultation with civil society and UN agencies in Myanmar must be acknowledged.

We recognise that it is indeed a crucial time for Myanmar in its transition to a democratic system. We understand that the challenges faced by Myanmar are complex and delicate. Sri Lanka commends the significant progress made on the Seven Step Road Map, of which the fifth step is the recently concluded multiparty democratic elections. We welcome the 6th step of this process of convening the parliament in a few days.

Sri Lanka commends the establishment of the Myanmar Human Rights Body, which will review and submit its human rights activities to the United Nations, study the establishment of a national Human Rights Commission and establish working groups as necessary.

Mr President,

My delegation welcomes the visits of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict in 2007, the UN Special Representative in November 2010 and the visits of the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, which are indicative of the active collaboration of Myanmar with the United Nations. We also recognise the positive steps taken by Myanmar to enhance the reinforcement of the minimum age requirement for recruitment to the military through the National Plan of action and the extensive cooperation extended to the relevant UN agencies in this regard.

Sri Lanka recognises the efforts of the Myanmar government to ensure the right to health for all its citizens by adopting the Health for All programme. We also welcome the increase of public expenditure on health over the last decade. The priority areas identified including maternal and child health through the National Health Plans will assist the country achieve the health related MDGs.

Mr President,

In conclusion, Sri Lanka recommends that Myanmar continues with its efforts to promote and protect human rights and freedoms.

Thank you.