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**Statement by A.H.M.D.Nawaz Deputy Solicitor General,
Sri Lanka during the interactive dialogue with the Special
Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women
and Children, 1st June 2011**

Mr President

● Sri Lanka wishes to compliment the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children on an insightful and illuminating report that throws open before this august body the vexed question of trafficking which has become a global scourge. In light of the thought provoking analysis of the Special Rapporteur, one cannot but agree that trafficking, ● like crimes such as homicide is a crime against an individual.

Sri Lanka observes that trafficking involves a victim of a crime who have either never consented to migrating for work or, if they did consent initially, that consent has since become

meaningless due to the deception and abuse they suffer. Though domestic trafficking is not specifically covered in the UN trafficking protocol, the Protocol read together with the convention against transnational organized crime embodies both international and domestic trafficking within the rubric of trafficking and thus they both deserve collective censure and action to combat their pernicious effects.

As the Special Rapporteur has aptly stated, the best way to ensure the eradication of trafficking is to set in motion strong anti-trafficking national laws that comply with international standards and best practices.

Mr President,

I am pleased to inform you that we in Sri Lanka have taken cognizance of these salutary developments and put in place a slew of corresponding measures to combat trafficking in all its

forms. As far back as February 2006 the Sri Lankan legislature enacted an Act to amend the penal code by criminalizing trafficking of persons in compliance with international trafficking protocol standards. This is a clear indication that Sri Lanka is committed to take steps towards combating human trafficking activities. In order to ensure the prosecution and accountability of those found responsible for the crime of trafficking, in addition to the legislative measures, Sri Lanka has developed in its national action plan on human rights a number of supplementary measures such as sensitization programmes among a large cross section of the community such as the civil society, professionals, labour force and monitoring ministries.

There exists in the country a robust anti trafficking unit in the police department whose capacity and institutional building have been enhanced with additional training.

We have taken constructive measures to incorporate effective remedies for trafficked persons and we congratulate the Special Rapportuer for her analysis on the substantive contents of the restitutionary measures necessary for the reintegration of trafficked victims.

Mr President

In order to take this mission forward, let us resolve to develop some further best practices and principles to achieve the golden aims namely prevention, prosecution and protection of vicims.

Thank You Mr President