



**Statement by the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
25th Session of the Human Rights Council
Agenda Item 4 : ID with the SR on the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka notes the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We observe that the international community has acknowledged the democratic nature in the conduct of the presidential elections in Iran on 14th June last year. We also note that the President has mandated the drafting of a “Charter of Citizenship Rights” as a top priority for the Government. We are encouraged that the position of Adviser to the President on Women and Family Affairs has been upgraded to Vice-President and Cabinet rank.

We also note that apart from Iran’s cooperation with the human rights mechanisms of the Council, including special procedures, UPR and relevant treaty bodies, Iran has also extended an invitation to the High Commissioner for Human Rights to pay a visit, and has already received a preparatory delegation in this regard.

Mr. President,

It is our considered view that such positive developments as well as cooperation by the country concerned must to be acknowledged. In this regard, we reiterate our consistent position that action initiated in the promotion and protection of human rights of a country, must have the consent of that country, and be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue aimed at strengthening the domestic capacity of the country to comply with its human rights obligations, as stipulated in GA resolution 60/251 and the IB package. Such action should also take into account the socio-political and historical particularities of each country.

We also believe that the Universal Periodic Review mechanism is the appropriate forum to address the human rights situations of all countries in a constructive and equal spirit of engagement.

Mr. President,

We therefore encourage the international community to constructively engage in a positive dialogue with Iran.

Thank you.