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The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honour to refer to the latter's communication dated 06 February 2013 in pursuance of Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/RES/21/3 of 09 October 2012 entitled 'Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms through a better understanding of traditional values of humankind: best practices'.

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka has the honour to attach herewith in Annex 1, the response received from the Ministry of Indigenous Medicine of the Government of Sri Lanka.

The Permanent Mission Sri Lanka would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt of this communication by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Right to Development Section  
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## Annex I

### **Comments of the Government of Sri Lanka (with regard to paragraph 6 of the Resolution (A/HRC/RES/21/3))**

1. Ministry of Indigenous Medicine (MIM) represents Sri Lanka's Traditional Medical System, which include *Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani*, Indigenous Medicine and Homeopathy. The medical community represent over a 100,000 in all districts.
2. The said medical community is represented by the Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Malay and Indigenous communities.
3. The medical community is a highly vibrant group representing graduates, diploma holders, and traditional medical healers. They are from 05 categories of ethnic groups.
4. All of them uphold cultural expressions of traditional knowledge, together with genetic resources of their own.

Paragraph 6 of the Resolution qualifies the traditional values of the said medical communities without any hindrance, whether they belong to Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims or Indigenous communities. Also, their basic human rights are protected and human dignity is highly recognised. Sri Lanka, is one of the top nations where dignity of medical community is highly protected.