

UPR WORKING GROUP – Twelfth SESSION
(03-14 October 2011)

UPR OF HAITI– INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
(13 October 2011)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Madam President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Haiti and thanks them for their presentation and National report. We commend the efforts of the Government in preparing the National report even while dealing with the effects of the devastating earthquake that struck the country last year, which wiped out the initial report itself.

02. Haiti faces formidable challenges in promoting and protecting human rights, especially with the emergent problems of displacement and their effects on vulnerable groups such as women and children. We commend the steps taken by Haiti to combat violence against women, especially after the earthquake. We encourage the Government to make concerted efforts to fight gender stereotyping and other discrimination against women.

03. The creation of the Education Support Fund with approx \$ 360 million over the next five years to fund free primary schooling and the “National Action Strategy for Education for All” are notable initiatives designed to achieve the goal of universal education for Haitian children. The report refers to the phenomenon of street-children and the projects for providing shelter to accommodate many of them. We request the delegation to elaborate on steps taken to extend educational facilities to street-children and integrate them into the mainstream.

04. As acknowledged in the report, Haiti’s efforts in the field of human rights are greatly hampered by structural problems, including poverty, inequality, weak judicial and education systems, poor infrastructure and housing, poor health coverage and corruption compounded by political instability and natural disasters. It behooves the international community to extend technical assistance and capacity- building in consonance with her needs and as articulated in section VII of the report.

05. In conclusion, we urge Haiti to ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman functions in compliance with the Paris Principles. We wish Haiti well in its endeavours to promote and protect human rights of its people in the face of daunting challenges.

Thank you, Madam President.
