

UPR of KAZAKHSTAN - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Feb 12, 2010; 0900-1200 hrs

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Kazakhstan led by H.E. Mr Yerbol Orynbayev, Deputy Prime Minister, and thanks them for their informative National Report and presentation.

02. It is commendable that the preparation for the UPR has led to Kazakhstan adopting a comprehensive National Plan of Action on Human Rights for 2009-12, encompassing strategies to enhance the human rights protection in the country. Equally noteworthy are the State Legal Policy 2010-20, and the amendments to the Constitution introduced in 2007 that have paved the way towards the strengthening of democratic institutions. Kazakhstan is party to most international human rights instruments and we are encouraged to learn from the National Report that the Government has decided to give a fresh impetus to the Government's Interdepartmental Commission on international human rights agreements, to strengthen implementation.

03. The economic achievements of Kazakhstan are praiseworthy: its per capita income has risen nearly eightfold in the past decade. It is commendable that Kazakhstan has achieved the Millennium Development Goals relating to poverty, primary education and women rights. We appreciate Kazakhstan's efforts to improve the status of women, in particular its Gender Equality Strategy 2006-2016 which has led to an

increase in the number of women in public service and in political decision-making positions.

04. We take positive note of steps taken by Kazakhstan in the areas of penal and judicial reforms, including its commitment to establish a national preventive mechanism aimed at oversight of detention conditions. We appreciate the presence of an active civil society and a high degree of inter-faith harmony and religious freedom, as noted by UNHCR and the Independent Expert on Minority Issues. We welcome the Government's commitment to enact a bill aimed at enhancing the citizens' right to receive and distribute information freely. We urge the Government to continue to expand the participation of the civil society, including media, in all policy processes and to consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris principles.

Thank you, Mr. President.
