

UPR of NICARAGUA - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Feb 9, 2010; 1500-1800 hrs

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Nicaragua led by H.E. Mrs. Ana Isabel Moralez Mazún, Minister of the Interior, and thanks them for their comprehensive National Report and presentation. India takes positive note of Nicaragua's accession to almost all major human rights instruments which bears testimony to its commitment to promote and protect human rights.

02. The Government's National Human Development Plan 2009-11 is noteworthy as it aims to harmonize domestic legislation with international human rights instruments, institutionalize legal and administrative mechanisms that guarantee human rights and generate rights awareness amongst the population, thereby building a culture of respect for human rights. Further, the Plan sets forth a development strategy underpinned by the civil power model and citizen participation, while envisaging a national welfare and social equity system.

03. In 2008, the Human Rights Committee welcomed the introduction of special *procurators* for children and adolescents; women; indigenous peoples and ethnic communities; persons with disabilities; persons deprived of their liberty; and for civic participation. The Government has established the Office of the Procurator for the Defence of Human

Rights in full accordance with the Paris Principles. Further, a Public Information Access Act has been promulgated. In addition, the State has been providing human rights education and training to its public employees since 2007 and has incorporated such instruction into the syllabus of the Army and the National Police Academies. We appreciate the various steps being taken by the Supreme Court to facilitate access to justice, especially for rural and vulnerable populations.

04. Given the large population of Nicaragua living below the poverty line, India appreciates the substantial effort being made to provide universal coverage of social services, in particular health and education, through a number of dedicated programmes, including the Comprehensive School Nutrition Programme, highlighted as a model programme by FAO.

05. India commends the Government for its national literacy campaign which has been successful in drastically reducing illiteracy. We take note of the Autonomous Regional Education System which recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic communities to cultural education in their own language, and the creation of a special office to look after the rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic communities.

06. While the Government has made considerable strides in lowering the maternal mortality, some concern has been expressed at the country's abortion laws that might be contributing to maternal mortality. We would request the delegation to share its views about the possibility of providing for exceptions in cases of therapeutic abortion. We would also request information on the challenges being faced in the

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implementation of the new Code of Criminal Procedure, especially with regard to its effectiveness in curbing human trafficking.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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