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**UPR WORKING GROUP – TENTH SESSION
(24 January – 4 February, 2011)**

**UPR of OMAN – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
January 26, 2011; 0900-1200 hrs**

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Oman led byand thanks the delegation for its presentation and its informative National Report. Oman has achieved notable progress in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, particularly in relation to women and children; and in the fields of education and health. UNDP's Human Development Report for 2010 lists Oman at the top of the world's ten leading countries that have made the greatest progress in recent decades in education and public health. The Government funds over 80 % of the total health expenditure, one of the highest percentages globally. Further, the education sector has garnered a major share of the 2010 budget; with an allocation of 35 % of total expenditure. In 2010, WHO stated that infant and under-five mortality rates had dropped to less than one tenth of their values, the fastest decline in under-five mortality ever recorded globally. On the political front, a number of reforms initiated over the years have gradually, yet significantly, increased elected representation in the Government. Over the last decade, efforts have been made to establish a legal infrastructure with regard to human rights, such as the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking.

Mr. President,

2. The Labour Code affirms the equality of all workers, without any discrimination based on nationality, gender, religion or any other distinction,

and thus offers protection to non-Omani employees working in the public sector, **except domestic servants and temporary workers**. Although we acknowledge the protective measures adopted in their favour, including a ministerial decree outlining their rights and work conditions, we would encourage the Government to consider bringing **domestic servants and temporary workers** within the scope of the Labour Law, thereby ensuring protection of their basic rights.

3. In conclusion, Mr. President, we are encouraged to learn about the priorities that Oman has set out for itself at the end of its National Report, which include considering ratifying the ICCPR and ICESCR; and undertaking a periodic review of its reservations to other international human rights instruments. We are particularly encouraged to note that Oman intends to advance its National Human Rights Commission in a manner consistent with the Paris Principles. We wish them well in their endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. President.
