

**UPR of the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO –  
Interactive Dialogue  
(3 December 2009; 0900-1200h)**

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo and thanks them for their comprehensive national report on the situation of Human Rights in their country. At the very outset, India would like to recognise the numerous constraints that impinge upon the Democratic Republic of Congo's capacity to secure the human rights of its citizens including *inter alia*, poverty, an authoritarian legacy and years of ethnic conflict, and a heavy debt burden exacerbated by the current economic crisis.

Mr. President,

We recognize that the Democratic Republic of Congo's efforts in the field of human rights are part of an ongoing process and, in this regard, we note with appreciation several initiatives, including the re-establishment of the autonomous status of the Ministry of Human Rights in 2008, the adoption of a "zero tolerance" policy on crimes of sexual violence and the institution of a revised National Plan for Human Rights, also this year. We would like to echo the CRC's sentiments in welcoming the adoption of the Law on Sexual Violence (2006) and the Child Protection Code (2009). It is praiseworthy that the Democratic Republic of Congo has continually engaged in a constructive spirit with human rights mechanisms, in particular the seven Special Rapporteurs/Special Representatives working on different themes, and we hope that this engagement increases qualitatively.

Mr. President,

We urge the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to expedite the process of setting up a National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles and to intensify its efforts in order to secure justice to the victims of serious human rights violations. We encourage the government to continue focusing on the areas of health and education, especially in the creation of related infrastructure.

To conclude, India underscores the importance of the international community in fulfilling its obligations with respect to assistance in the humanitarian and human rights areas as stated in Council resolution S-8/1. While recognising the sustained efforts of the OHCHR and the UN Human Rights Integrated Office in improving the human rights' situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, India calls upon the OHCHR to increase and enhance its technical assistance programmes and activities, in consultation with the authorities of the country as provided for in Council resolution 10/33, and draws attention to Section IX of the National Report in this regard.

Thank You, Mr. President.

\*\*\*\*\*