

UPR WORKING GROUP - FOURTH SESSION

(2 - 13 February 2009)

UPR of MALAYSIA - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

(February 10, 2009)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr Chairman,

My delegation extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Malaysia led by _____ and thanks it for its detailed presentation and its cooperative and constructive participation in the review process. As a secular and pluralist democracy with a civilisational ethos of tolerance, we understand the complexities of Malaysia's ethnic and cultural diversities, and the consequent policy challenges for sustainable development of the country while maintaining social harmony. We commend the achievements of Malaysia, one of the founder members of ASEAN, its transformation into a modern, industrialised economy within the space of a single generation and its openness to cultural cross-fertilisation.

Mr Chairman,

Malaysia's national report highlights, among other things, Malaysia's efforts to implement its commitment to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, and to safeguard the welfare and interest of children, consistent with its obligations under CEDAW and Convention

on the Rights of Child (CRC) - to both of which Malaysia is a Party. In this regard, we commend Malaysia's efforts to reform law on violence against women and prevent exploitation of children, as also its achievements in the field of women's education, health-care, and reduction of poverty and inequalities in income and education. We also take positive note of its recent legislation on human trafficking, its steps to restore public confidence in its judiciary, its efforts to lift indigenous people from backwardness, and its early initiative on framing national policy for the elderly, to prepare for the changes in the demographic profile of the country.

Mr Chairman,

While we appreciate the mandate of, and the work done by, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia as mentioned in the national report, we would request the Malaysian delegation to elaborate on some concerns that have been expressed about the effectiveness, autonomy and independence of this Commission. We would also request the delegation to share more information on steps taken to protect human rights defenders and migrant workers. Lastly, Mr Chairman, we would request the delegation to share Malaysia's experience on the success of its measures to enhance the participation of minorities and various ethnic groups in the country's political and decision-making process.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.