

**UPR WORKING GROUP – EIGHTH SESSION  
(MAY 3-14, 2010)**

**UPR of TURKEY – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**

**May 10, 2010; 1430-1730 hrs**

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Turkey led by H.E. Mr Cemil Cicek, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State, and thanks the delegation for its presentation and an informative National Report that provides a useful overview of the steps taken by Turkey to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights, as also a candid acknowledgement of shortcomings and remaining challenges.

Mr President,

2. In the last decade, Turkey has effected a comprehensive human rights reform process through nine Constitutional reform packages, especially in the area of civil and political rights. Apart from aligning its legal framework with its obligations under international human rights instruments through this reform process, Turkey has also invested substantively in training and education programmes to improve the implementation of its new legal framework. The country has several institutions, including some with powers of investigation, to protect human rights and is committed to establishing a national human rights institution. Various UN entities and Special Procedures have commended the visible impact of its human rights reforms, as, for instance, those relating to freedoms of expression, assembly and association, and administration of criminal justice system. Turkey has also carried out important reforms to enhance the status of women and remove patriarchal biases from its law.

3. Mr President, some concern has been expressed about the criteria adopted in the country's legal framework with regard to the determination of minorities. The UN Country Team has observed that the country's definition of minorities is at variance with the ICCPR and tends to be restrictive. While we appreciate Turkey's commitment to secularism, the information provided in the National Report and the reforms aimed at improving the legislation on minorities, we would request the delegation to provide more information about the observation made by the UN Country Team on this aspect. Lastly, we would encourage Turkey to accelerate the establishment of a national human rights institution that is fully compliant with Paris Principles.

Thank you, Mr President.

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