

**UPR WORKING GROUP - ELEVENTH SESSION  
(02-13 May 2011)**

**UPR of SOMALIA - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE  
(03 May 2011)**

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Somalia led by .....and thanks the delegation for its presentation. We appreciate the efforts of the Government in preparing an informative and candid National Report and for its willingness to engage constructively in the UPR process.

2. Given its history and difficult political environment, we remain cognisant of the immense challenges and constraints faced by the Government in fully securing the human rights of its population. Despite serious institutional and operational challenges, the Transitional Federal Government is making a concerted effort to rebuild an administrative structure. Even though the challenges in the field of public security, health and education remain daunting, the Government has attempted to expand its public service delivery system, build new and improved health services, schools, install street lighting and organise refuse collection. In the health sector, the Government's achievements include the opening of Martini hospital, a health surveillance office at the International Airport and the opening of First Aid centres in Mogadishu. It is encouraging to note that in March 2011, the Government has, for the first time since

1991, opened a primary and intermediate school to offer free education in Mogadishu.

3. The National Report states that FGM is very widespread in Somalia and almost all Somali women and girls are subjected to this harmful practice. In this regard, we take positive note of the Government's commitment to the total elimination of this practice and to amend its penal code with provisions to specifically prohibit this practice. Since the practice is societal and has traditional origins, and is rampant in rural communities, we would encourage the Government to launch awareness-raising campaigns on the issue.

4. The Government of Somalia has sought the assistance of the international community, and deservedly so, be it for its accession to international human rights instruments, technical assistance and capacity-building or sharing of good practices. We believe that the international community has the responsibility to come to Somalia's aid and provide it with the necessary technical and financial assistance. We assure the Government of Somalia of our unreserved support in their objective of improving the human rights situation in their country and we wish them well in their endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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