

UPR WORKING GROUP – THIRD SESSION  
(1- 15 December 2008)

UPR of COLOMBIA – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

My Delegation would like to take this opportunity to welcome the distinguished delegation of Colombia and thank them for their informative presentation. We have particularly taken note of the candid and frank approach adopted by Colombia in the presentation of their National Report. We also appreciate the efforts of the Government of Colombia to carry out an inclusive process in the preparation of this report by taking into consideration a wide variety of views at all levels.

We welcome, in particular, two initiatives taken in the recent past by the government of Colombia – one, the National Plan for Education in Human Rights implemented by the Ministry of education and two, the Integral policy for human rights and international humanitarian law for the Armed Forces adopted by the Ministry of Defence. We would like to commend Colombia for its efforts to integrate the study of Human Rights into its education system as well as its law enforcement agencies.

My delegation has noted with interest the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman at the regional as well as municipality level. We would appreciate if we were informed as to its working in the protection and

promotion of human rights, keeping in view its wide network encompassing 1102 Ombudsmen all across the country. Also, we would like to know how is the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman different from that of a National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles?

Thank you, Mr. President.