

(5) Ambassador

UPR WORKING GROUP -FIFTH SESSION  
(4-15 MAY 2009)

UPR of SLOVAKIA - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

May 12, 2009

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Slovakia led by Ms Diana Strofova, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and thanks it for its informative national report and presentation.

Mr. President,

We appreciate the various steps taken by Slovakia to promote and protect human rights since its transition to democracy in 1993. We welcome the amendment to article 127 of the Constitution that has introduced a constitutional complaint procedure. The country has adopted a new Labour Code in September 2007 that reflects the principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value. We also take positive note of the Government's efforts to integrate the Roma community, including priority focus on this issue through membership of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 programme, formulation of a Decade National Action Plan, establishment of a separate government office for the Roma community and official standardisation of Roma language to facilitate education in Roma language.

At the same time, Mr President, despite some noteworthy measures taken by the Government with regard to the development of the Roma community, a wide concern has been expressed, including by the UNDP,

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CEDAW, CRC, the Human Rights Committee and CERD, about the persisting social exclusion of the Romas, and their vulnerability to poverty and poor access to education, health, housing, transport and employment. We would, therefore, request the Slovakian delegation to share information about the challenges faced by the Government in better integration of the Roma community and urge that the Government take further necessary measures for sustainable social development of the Roma community.

Thank you, Mr. President.