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UPR of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Interactive Dialogue

Tuesday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, 14h30-17h30

Intervention by India

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia led by..... and thanks them for their informative national report on the situation of Human Rights in their country. India takes positive note of the fact that Macedonia has ratified most of the core international Human Rights Conventions and has, in its national report, accorded the highest priority to ratify the remaining Conventions. We commend the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial body for Human Rights in 2006 to enhance co-ordination among all competent ministries, to carry out the recommendations contained in UN Committee reports and to advance legislation in the domain of human rights.

Among recent initiatives, India is encouraged by the adoption of the National Strategy for Justice System Reform in 2004, the establishment of the Commission on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in 2006 and the setting up the Inter-Ministerial National Commission on Child Rights in 2007. However, India remains concerned about the prevalence of trafficking in women and girls despite the establishment of a National Commission for Fight against Trafficking and Illegal Migration in 2001, the lack of adequate measures to rehabilitate women victims of trafficking and the plight of asylum-seekers with respect to the system for processing and determining their claims. India also echoes the Human Rights Committee's concerns regarding the "Law on Amnesty" adopted in 2002 and hopes that it does not shield the perpetrators of the most serious violations of Human Rights.

Mr. President,

India recognizes the policies and activities undertaken by the government of Macedonia for the inclusion of the Roma, in particular, the adoption of the National Strategy for Roma in 2005. Nevertheless, we share the concerns expressed by CESCR and CERD that Roma populations experience higher levels of poverty and consequently are more vulnerable to economic exploitation, that dropout rates remain high among Roma children, particularly girls, and that some Roma experience difficulties in obtaining personal documents. We urge the government of Macedonia to intensify its efforts to secure the Human Rights of the Roma people.

We would encourage Macedonia to consider the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We urge Macedonia to set up an independent and effective National Human Rights Institution fully in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Thank You Mr. President,

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