

**UPR WORKING GROUP FIRST SESSION**

(7-18 April 2008)

**UPR of MOROCCO – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**

(8 April 2008)

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Members of the Delegation of Morocco!

My delegation would like to thank the delegation of Morocco for their informative presentation. We have been impressed by the significant initiatives taken by Morocco in recent years in the furtherance of the objective of promotion and protection of human rights.

In particular, Morocco's efforts in designing a national strategy and plan of action on human rights education are noteworthy. These have been complemented by the strengthening of the National Human Rights Institution. We have noted with interest that in addition to the National Institution, the Office of Ombudsman (Diwan Al Madhalim) has been established to consider cases of human rights violations. My delegation would be interested in knowing how the mandate of the Ombudsman is different from that of the National Institution with regard to consideration of human rights violations.

Mr. Chairman,

In the field of representation of women in the political field Morocco has taken some far-reaching initiatives which have been successful in significantly enhancing the presence of women in parliament (from 1 per

cent in 1995 to 11 per cent in 2002). The figures are equally impressive in the judicial field with 50 per cent representation. We would be interested in knowing the highlights of the legislative changes and voluntary quota system which have made this possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.