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Permanent Mission of India to the UN
Geneva

18th Session of the Human Rights Council
(12 - 30 September 2011)

Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Sudan
(19 September 2011)

Statement by India

Madam President,

We thank the Independent Expert for his report on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. We note that the report acknowledges the progress made by the Sudan in promotion and protection of human rights, especially during the historic referendum. India welcomes South Sudan as the newest member of the UN and the international community. We commend the leadership of both the Sudan and South Sudan, who have shown exemplary patience and maturity to see the fulfilment of this important landmark of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which India has supported from its very beginning in 2005.

02. We commend the Sudan's release of 2000 detainees convicted for minor crimes, its effective participation in its Universal Periodic Review in May 2011 and encourage the Sudan to continue its co-operation with the UN human rights machinery. At the same time, we share many of the concerns expressed by the Independent Expert on the deteriorating security and humanitarian situations in southern Kordafan and Darfur. The ongoing conflicts can have disastrous

consequences for the people inhabiting the region, as scarce resources will be diverted from the urgently needed task of reorganisation in the aftermath of the referendum. We urge all parties to abjure violence and re-dedicate themselves to the same spirit in which they have implemented the CPA and expeditiously resolve the stalemate on outstanding issues. In this regard, we congratulate the Governments of the two Sudans on the launch of the Abyei Joint Oversight Committee on 8th September. Our appreciation also extends to the State of Qatar and the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) on the Sudan led by Mr. Thabo Mbeki who played a significant role in this regard.

Madam President,

03. While acknowledging the enormous challenges faced by the Sudan in promoting and protecting the human rights of its citizens, the Independent Expert has made a number of recommendations, including continuing the review of national laws, investigating alleged violations of human rights and settlement of outstanding issues of the CPA. In doing so, he has called upon the international community to sustain its technical and financial support for building democratic national institutions to protect human rights in the Sudan. The international community must spare no effort to enable the Sudan in establishing an environment in which civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, can be fully enjoyed by its citizens. In keeping with this spirit, India stands ready to support ongoing efforts at achieving lasting peace and prosperity in this region.

Thank you, Madam President.
