

**UPR WORKING GROUP – EIGHTH SESSION
(MAY 3-14, 2010)**

UPR of ARMENIA – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

May 6, 2010; 1430-1730 hrs

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Armenia led by H.E. Mr Arman Kirkossian, and thanks the delegation for its presentation and the National Report.

Mr President,

2. Armenia is a party to most core international human rights instruments and enjoys an ‘A’-status human rights ombudsman. In the social sector, CEDAW has commended Armenia for revisions to its Constitution in 2005 that strengthen the role of women and their equality before law. In addition, the country is in the process of enacting another law to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women. Armenia has effected large-scale reforms in the health sector aimed at the development of primary health care and better access to medical care for all. During the last decade, Armenia has also carried out reforms in the education sector to enhance the quality of education and ensure equal opportunities for all its peoples. The country has almost universal literacy, compulsory basic general education and free secondary education in state educational institutions. We appreciate Armenia’s multi-ethnic character and the importance it attaches to the rights of its national minorities. In this regard, we take note of the establishment of a separate Coordination Council for National Minorities and a department for Ethnic Minority and Religious Affairs to strengthen policy measures in favour of national minorities. We are also encouraged by its steps to publish elementary school textbooks in languages of some ethnic groups and its creation of a

Cultural Centre of Nationalities in 2006. We commend the country for having introduced human rights as a separate subject in public school curricula.

3. Mr President, we would request Armenia to continue to take steps to reform its justice system and improve its monitoring of penitentiary establishments. We would also encourage it to strengthen its efforts relating to ensuring religious diversity and facilitating an active civil society. Lastly, we would request the delegation to clarify whether its national institution of the Human Rights Defender has role and responsibilities similar to that of a national human rights institution.

Thank you, Mr President.
