

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

**UPR of SWEDEN – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**

**May 7, 2010; 1430-1730 hrs**

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Sweden led by H.E. Mr Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and thanks the delegation for its presentation and its National Report which outlines the normative and institutional framework for human rights protection in the country. The country's acclaimed general welfare system has contributed to the practical enjoyment of a number of rights by its citizens as well as to Sweden's very high ranking in UNDP's Human Development Index. We take positive note of several progressive measures taken in the recent past to enhance human rights education and training, in particular the draft new Education Act and the launch of the special human rights website.

2. India is appreciative of the acknowledgement in the National Report that problems and challenges impeding the full enjoyment of human rights remain in many areas, in particular, in combating discrimination. We take note of the several directed initiatives that have been taken in this regard, such as the new Anti-discrimination Act 2009, the National Action Plan for Human Rights 2006–2009 and the establishment of the Equality Ombudsman.

3. However, despite all legislative and institutional measures to combat discrimination, the experience of the Equality Ombudsman, as well as independent research, indicates the continuing existence of the phenomenon in the society. As noted by CERD, the new Anti-discrimination Act does not provide for the adoption of special measures regarding vulnerable racial or ethnic groups. The Human Rights Committee too has expressed concern

about the persistence of discrimination against “persons of foreign origin” and some vulnerable indigenous and ethnic groups. It is understood that the Government intended to address the Human Rights Committee’s recommendations through a bill submitted to the Parliament. We would request the delegation of Sweden to inform us of recent developments in this regard.

4. We commend the progress achieved by Sweden in promoting gender equality. We also take note of the measures taken by the Government to check violence against women that the National Report acknowledges as a matter of serious concern and priority. We would request the delegation to share information about more policy steps that the Government might be envisaging in this regard.

5. In conclusion, Mr. President, India recommends that Sweden establish an independent national human rights institution accredited by the ICC and in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

Thank you, Mr. President.