

UPR WORKING GROUP - NINTH SESSION

(01-12 November 2010)

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UPR of HONDURAS- INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

04 November 2010

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Honduras led by
H.E.....

and thanks the delegation for its National Report and presentation. The Government has acknowledged the challenges and constraints in the promotion and protection of human rights, especially in view of the political unrest witnessed since the constitutional crisis of 2009. We take positive note of the changes effected by means of institutional reforms entailing the establishment of a Truth Commission and the Office of the Minister-Adviser to the President on Human Rights, which is shortly to become the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Honduras has made an effort to bring its legislation in line with international standards, by passing laws on women's equality, the rights of persons with disabilities, the rights of the child and persons with HIV. In addition, criminal legislation on trafficking, sexual exploitation and the eradication of domestic violence has been reformed. Further, it is commendable that Honduras is party to almost all international human rights instruments, which is indicative of its commitment to human rights.

The National Report acknowledges that the national health system has been marked by poor oversight, fragmentation, inefficiency in budget implementation and inequity in service delivery. This has prompted the

Government to redraft its National Health Plan 2021 and launch a comprehensive reform of the health sector, with a focus on decentralizing service delivery in order to reduce social exclusion.

The efforts of the Government in the field of education are also noteworthy, which have resulted in a substantial increase in enrolment rates, building of new schools and creation of new teaching posts. However, access to education remains a matter of concern, with a large sector of the population, particularly in rural areas, having no access to primary education at all.

The reference to the right to decent housing in the Constitution is a progressive development indeed. Moreover, the social housing programmes being implemented by the Government for the realization of this right are steps in the right direction. We also appreciate the focus being put on the right to a healthy environment and efforts being implemented to mitigate the impact of climate change.

As per official figures, 58 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line and 36 per cent in extreme poverty. Lack of employment opportunities has resulted in making Honduras a major country of origin for migration, with about 220,000 Hondurans leaving the country every year. In this regard, we would encourage the Government of Honduras to effectively implement its National policy on Migration.

Thank you, Mr. President.
