

UPR WORKING GROUP - TENTH SESSION
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UPR of MYANMAR - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

27 January 2011

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Myanmar led by _____ . We thank the delegation for its presentation and the national report for which, as mentioned in the report, broad consultations were held with the civil society and the UN agencies, including the OHCHR regional office in Bangkok.

Mr. President,

2. Myanmar is a multi-ethnic country that has, since its independence, struggled for stability, democracy and development on account of several challenges, including insurgencies. It is in this broader context that we have to view its programmes for promotion and protection of human rights. We, therefore, take note of its efforts aimed at fostering national unity by including reformed armed groups in the process for political and socio-economic development which have led to, *inter alia*, the drafting and adoption of a new Constitution. We take positive note of the co-operation which it has extended to the UN human rights machinery from time to time, including strengthening the presence of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Northern Rakhine state. We also appreciate the steps taken by Myanmar on issues relating to human

trafficking, rights of the child and forced labour which have been commended by UN treaty bodies like CEDAW and CRC.

Mr. President,

3. India has consistently articulated its position that Myanmar's process of political reform and national reconciliation should be more inclusive, broad-based and expeditious. However, by its very nature, this is a difficult and time-consuming process. In this context, we welcome the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi which, along with the elections held in November 2010, constitutes an important step in this process.

4. Lastly, Mr. President, Myanmar stands at an important crossroads in its transition to democracy. As a close and friendly neighbour, India remains committed to supporting Myanmar's efforts to consolidate this process, such as through our wide-ranging development projects in Myanmar which include the establishment of high-speed internet data links in 32 Myanmar cities to facilitate flow of information. At the same time, we would strongly encourage Myanmar to develop greater capacities so as to address the major human rights concerns voiced by various UN treaty bodies and special procedures, as also to consider becoming party to core international human rights instruments. We would also recommend that Myanmar expedite the establishment of a national human rights institution that is compliant with the Paris Principles.

Thank you, Mr. President.
