

**UPR of ETHIOPIA- Interactive Dialogue
(09 December 2009; 1430-1730h)**

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Ethiopia led by Ambassador Fisseha Yimer and thanks them for their detailed and objective national report. A progressive Constitution, an impressive normative human rights framework comprising numerous domestic laws and institutions, and a plethora of policy measures amply reflect Ethiopia's commitment to the promotion and protection of the human rights of its citizens. Among recent initiatives, India particularly appreciates the adoption of the National Plan of Action for Children and the National Plan of Action on Gender Equality, the institution of a free anti-retroviral programme, and the launching of the Health Sector Extension Programme. India welcomes the emphasis on technical and vocational training in education, and the impetus being given by the credit sector to Micro and Small Scale Enterprises in order to create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and consequently contribute to the national development effort. India also commends Ethiopia's longstanding record as a host country for refugees from neighbouring countries and in this regard, would urge Ethiopia to continue to cooperate with international mechanisms.

Mr. President,

As an African Least Developed Country, Ethiopia's efforts in the field of human rights, including those related to awareness-raising, are hindered by staggering poverty, chronic food insecurity and the existence of certain traditional practices, as acknowledged in the report. It behoves the international community to extend capacity building and technical assistance to Ethiopia in consonance with her needs and as articulated in Section XIII of the report.

Mr. President,

Ethiopia's report draws attention to the onerous reporting obligations of a State Party with respect to various human rights mechanisms including Treaty Bodies, and my delegation would like to urge the OHCHR to discuss methods and frameworks, in consultation with States, through which it is ensured that these reporting obligations are streamlined and do not result in duplication of efforts.

To conclude, my delegation would like to recommend to the delegation of Ethiopia that it undertake efforts to ensure that the Ethiopian National Human Rights Commission complies with relevant international standards.

Thank You, Mr. President.
