

UPR WORKING GROUP –FOURTH SESSION
(2-13 FEBRUARY 2009)

UPR of RUSSIAN FEDERATION – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
(4 February 2009)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to warmly welcome the Delegation of the Russian Federation and thank them for their presentation. We welcome Russia's stated policy of broadening and strengthening international cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights, establishing equal, non-confrontational dialogue in the Human Rights Council, and working constructively with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. As a country with a pluralistic and multi-cultural society, we welcome the importance that Russia attaches to strengthening the multi-ethnic fabric of its society.

Mr. Chairman,

The signing by Russia in 2008 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is a positive development, as has been Russia's introduction of education on human rights in the school curricula.

Mr Chairman,

My delegation would like to seek more information about the free services provided by Russia's state legal aid offices to improve access by socially vulnerable groups, as also about the the success of Russia's National Action Plan to increase women's representation in decision-making positions.

We would also like to know more about the functioning of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) established to ensure that the State protects human rights and fundamental freedoms and that State bodies, local administrations and officials observe and respect them.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.