

*Intervention made by
Ambassador A. GOPINATHAN*

APPROVED

UPR WORKING GROUP-FOURTH SESSION

(2-13 February 2009)

UPR of NIGERIA-INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

(February 9, 2009)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. Chairman,

headed by H.E. Mr. OJO UMA MADUEKWE, Minister of Foreign Affairs.
My delegation welcomes the Delegation of Nigeria and thanks them for their detailed and comprehensive presentation. We welcome the open and constructive approach adopted in the preparation of the National Report by holding broad national consultations amongst government representatives, civil society and various interest groups. We further welcome the proposal of Nigeria to make such consultations an annual event.

We take this opportunity to laud Nigeria, the largest democracy in Africa and a leading member of the African Union, for its commitment towards upholding democratic principles and values in a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious society ever since its return to democracy in 1999. We support its efforts towards strengthening of democratic institutions, the separation of powers, the independence of the courts, freedom of the press and the involvement of civil society in governance.

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We note with appreciation the significant achievements in its efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals targets, in particular those concerning education. We welcome the fact that education is given the highest priority in the annual budget. The stated success achieved in enhancing the enrolment ratio and achieving gender parity in schools is commendable indeed.

Mr. Chairman,

We note with appreciation the adoption of a National Plan of Action on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the country. In particular, we welcome the initiative of the Nigerian Government to commit itself not only to protecting and promoting human rights in the country, but also to working closely with the civil society organizations and international human rights non-governmental organizations in the achievement of this objective. We wish them well in their endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. President.