

UPR WORKING GROUP – TENTH SESSION
(24 January – 4 February, 2011)

UPR of PARAGUAY – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
January 27, 2011; 1430-1730 hrs

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Paraguay led by H.E. Humberto Blasco, and thanks the delegation for its presentation and its National Report, which portrays the situation of human rights in the country in a candid manner. The country has made a significant progress in overcoming its past legacy by establishing democratic institutions based on the rule of law and respect for human rights. Its democratic revival has led to the reorganization of the political and institutional apparatus, the establishment of the Truth and Justice Commission, the adoption a Constitution establishing a pluralistic form of Government, and as recently as in 2008, a change of Government induced by universal suffrage.

2. The establishment of the Human Rights Network of the Executive Branch to co-ordinate all human rights policies and programmes is a worthy development indeed. It is currently implementing the Plan of Action 2010–11 which outlines priorities that are indicative of the Government's commitment to fulfil its human rights obligations. However, concerns have been raised by the UN country team that the entity does not have the sufficient resources it requires to carry out its work.

3. Over the years, meaningful efforts have been made to foster gender equality and the empowerment of women; in particular, through the implementation of the National Equal Opportunities Plans. In 2010, the Secretariat for Gender Issues has been set up within the Supreme Court, mandated with ensuring that women's rights are incorporated into the administration of justice. However, concerns have been raised by CEDAW

with regard to the low participation of women in decision-making bodies and in public life, and the high illiteracy and dropout rates among women. In fact, the third National Plan for Equality of Opportunity between Women and Men 2008–2017 itself acknowledges the widening of gaps between men and women; and that unemployment and underemployment are rising more rapidly among women. In this context, we would request the delegation to inform us as to what measures are being taken to promote equal remuneration for equal work for both men and women.

4. In conclusion, Mr. President, we would also request the delegation to inform us of the steps being taken by the Government to protect and promote the language Guaraní; and to ensure that those indigenous communities versant only in Guaraní are not limited in fully exercising their rights and fundamental freedoms.

Thank you, Mr. President.
