

**UPR WORKING GROUP – EIGHTH SESSION  
(MAY 3-14, 2010)**

**UPR of KUWAIT – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**

**May 12, 2010; 0900-1200 hrs**

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Kuwait led by H.E. Dr Mohammad M Al-Afasi, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, and thanks the delegation for its presentation and the National Report.

Mr President,

2. Kuwait is a party to most core international human rights instruments and is one of the leading Arab countries in terms of human development index. It has invested heavily in the social sector, especially in the health and education sectors, and is poised to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals. While the CRC has commended the country for its extensive social welfare services, CEDAW has commended it for its progressive development of national machinery for the advancement of women. We take positive note of the steps taken by the country to recognise and enhance the role of civil society organisations as partners in national development. An important contributor to international humanitarian aid, Kuwait has displayed notable commitment towards environment protection and human rights education that has been introduced as a separate subject in its secondary schools.

Mr President,

3. We commend the National Report for the attention it has given to some of the key human rights challenges facing the country, including the issues of labour market and illegal residents. In this regard, we note the legislative

measures initiated to codify minimum employment rights and work conditions to prevent the exploitation of workers, as also steps towards scrapping 'sponsorship' system and bringing domestic workers within the ambit of national laws. We also appreciate the Government's commitment to enact a new law on private sector employment and introduce a statutory minimum wage. We note the measures taken by the Government to address the issue of illegal residents, including the establishment of an executive committee and a Ministerial committee. We also take positive note of the government's pledge to continue to explore ways to find an appropriate solution.

4. Lastly, while we note the Government's pledge to establish a national human rights institution, we would encourage it to expedite the formation of this body in full compliance with Paris Principles. We would also encourage the Government to continue to strengthen measures to ensure gender equality.

Thank you, Mr President.

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