

UPR WORKING GROUP FIRST SESSION

(7-18 April 2008)

UPR of BAHRAIN – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

(7 April 2008)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. Chairman, Madam High Commissioner, Distinguished Members of the Delegation of Bahrain.

My delegation would like to congratulate Bahrain, as the first country to be reviewed under the UPR process, for the cooperative, open and positive approach it has taken in its preparation for the review. We hope that a similar approach would prevail in the Human Rights Council in the review of Bahrain's endeavours for the promotion and protection of the human rights of all those residents within its territory. A cooperative and non-confrontational review aimed at assisting Bahrain, in keeping with its needs and priorities, in further improving the human rights situation on the ground would represent a significant milestone in the successful operationalisation of the UPR process.

Mr. Chairman,

2. My delegation welcomes the assertion by Bahrain, at the highest level, of its commitment to democratic and pluralistic principles and to respecting human rights. Its socio-economic indicators are impressive especially in the fields of health and education.

3. We have also noted with interest that the Government of Bahrain is engaged in a legislative exercise to establish a national human rights

institution. As a country which has an effective and internationally recognized National Human Rights Commission functioning for over a decade and a half, we would be keen on knowing the current status of the proposal.

4. There are a significant number of foreign workers in Bahrain; my delegation would be keen to have details from the delegation of Bahrain on steps already taken as well as those planned which could favourably impact on the condition of foreign contractual workers.

Mr. Chairman,

5. As we set sail on this journey it is important that we all pull in the same direction for that alone will ensure that we make quick and measurable progress. I can assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support.

Thank you. Mr. Chairman.