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UPR of URUGUAY - Interactive Dialogue
Monday, the 11th of May, 0900h-1200h
Intervention by India

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Uruguay led by Dr. Gonzalo Fernández,
minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, and thanks them for their comprehensive national report on the situation of Human Rights in their country. India notes with appreciation the sustained efforts of the government of Uruguay towards the protection and promotion of the human rights of all its citizens. India takes positive cognizance of Uruguay's commitment to its international human rights obligations and of its constructive engagement with the UN system, which is reflected by its ratification of almost all core universal Human Rights treaties and the approval by the Parliament of 114 Bills directly related to Human Rights. It is encouraging to note that the financial paper drawn up by the Government on its investment in Human Rights policies, has revealed consistent increased spending over the years.

Mr. President,

Of special interest to India is the significant progress made by Uruguay in the field of primary education, in particular, the achievement of near universal enrolment rates in primary schools through innovative programmes like *maestros comunitarios*. We would urge the Government of Uruguay to maintain the same high standards with respect to retention rates and secondary education. It is also noteworthy that in an effort to improve governance and increase transparency in public affairs, Uruguay has adopted the Access to Public Information Act in 2008.

India appreciates the launching of the National Plan for Equality and Opportunity, the establishment of a Committee to eradicate Commercial and non-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, and adoption of the Migration Act in 2008 which classifies trafficking in persons as an offence. India welcomes the initiative of issuing identity cards for all citizens and the introduction of the electronic live births certification scheme in 2008.

Mr. President,

While recognizing the efforts of the Government of Uruguay to reinterpret the "Expiry Law of the Punitive Powers of the State" in order to secure justice to the victims of human rights violations that occurred prior to the restoration of democracy, India would like to seek further information from the delegation of Uruguay in this regard. We would like to be informed if the government of Uruguay intends to enact legislation to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years for both men and women so as to comply with its obligations entailed under CEDAW. We would also like to enquire if Uruguay is considering ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. India would like to urge Uruguay to expedite the process of setting up an independent and effective National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Thank you, Mr. President.
