

**UPR of CYPRUS – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
(30 November 2009; 1500-1800h)**

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Cyprus led by H.E. Leda Koursoumba and thanks it for its presentation and the National Report.

Mr. President,

We have noted the extensive Constitutional safeguards provided for in the Constitution of Cyprus with regard to various human rights, including the rights to life, equality, freedom of speech and expression, and rights of persons belonging to national minorities. We have also taken note of the various monitoring bodies and national institutions established by the Government for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the Commissioner for the Protection of Children's Rights, the National Institution for the Protection of Human Rights and the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee. We also appreciate the provision of free legal aid that, according to the National Report, is afforded in civil proceedings brought against the Government for violations of human rights safeguarded by the Constitution and international human rights instruments that are directly applicable in the Republic. In 2006, CEDAW too commended the country for significant law reforms since 1995 aimed at promotion of gender equality and elimination of discrimination against women.

Mr President,

We would request the delegation of Cyprus for more information about the principal provisions of the bill in their Parliament aimed at introduction of a ten

percent quota for the disabled in the recruitment in public sector jobs. We would also request them to share their views on the main challenges being faced by the Government in the field of human rights, especially those related to minorities and illegal immigrants, and how the Government plans to meet these challenges.

Lastly, Mr President, my delegation recommends that Cyprus make its National Institution for the Protection of Human Rights fully compliant with Paris Principles at the earliest.

Thank you, Mr. President.
