

Permanent Mission of India to the UN
Geneva

Human Rights Council
18th session (12 -30 September 2011)

Item 2: Interactive Dialogue on the Report of the High Commissioner
on the visit of the OHCHR to Yemen
(19 September 2011)

Statement by India

Madam President,

The delegation of India takes note of the report of the High Commissioner on the visit of the OHCHR delegation to Yemen to assess the situation of human rights in the country. We also take note that the report acknowledges and appreciates the full access and co-operation provided to the visiting delegation by the Government of Yemen.

As observed in the report, the situation in Yemen at the time was, and continues to be, rather complex, with several separate, and at times intertwined, struggles taking place, involving peaceful protests by demonstrators, a violent power struggle by armed opponents and the efforts of the political opponents, including defectors, to bring about a regime change. In this regard, we take note of the report's concluding observations and recommendations addressing all relevant parties, including the armed opponents, the Islamist fundamentalists with links to Al-Qaeda and the international community, besides the Government of Yemen, as we believe that it is incumbent upon all actors, including non-State actors, to maintain utmost restraint in a volatile and deteriorating situation, as well as for the perpetrators on all sides to be held accountable for the violations of fundamental freedoms and human rights.

Madam President,

We are of the view that some of the assertions and allegations contained in the report require further examination and verification. In addition, it is unfortunate that the report does not acknowledge the loss of lives on the side of the security forces, or of the Constitutional and legal provisions available in Yemen for a peaceful settlement of transfer of power.

The continuing struggle, the loss of lives on all sides and the continually deteriorating humanitarian situation call for the immediate cessation of all violence and restoration of law and order. A lasting solution to the conflict must be sought through complete renunciation of force and violence; and through dialogue and negotiation based on respect for human rights. As a result of the conflict, there has been much hardship and suffering that has been brought upon the people of Yemen, and the worsening humanitarian situation has affected the entire population, in particular, the poor and the most vulnerable. Therefore, it behoves the international community to heed the calls for humanitarian assistance and to provide financial and technical support to Yemen by contributing to the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2011.

Thank you, Madam President.
