

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

UPR of BELARUS– INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

May 12, 2010; 1430-1730 hrs

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Belarus led by H.E. Mr Mikhail Khvostov, the Permanent Representative of Belarus, and thanks the delegation for its presentation and National Report. We take positive note of Belarus being party to most international human rights instruments, which is indicative of its commitment to human rights. We also take note of the various institutional mechanisms established with respect to human rights, including the Standing Commission for Human Rights in the National Assembly and the recently established Advisory Social Council in the Executive Office of the President.

2. The rapid growth in per capita income over the last decade has made it possible to significantly reduce the number of people living in the low-income group, thus enabling Belarus to achieve the goal of eradicating poverty. As noted by UNESCO, it is creditable that Belarus is on track to achieve the MDGs relating to, *inter alia*, child mortality and maternal health within the appointed time frame.

3. We appreciate the efforts being made to secure the rights of the child. In 2009, the UN Country Team highlighted that Belarus had adopted a number of legal instruments for the protection of children, in particular the Law on Child's Rights. CRC and CERD have welcomed the efforts being made by the Government of Belarus to promote awareness of human rights through training programmes, special courses within school syllabi and a child-friendly website on the rights of the child.

4. The establishment of the Council on Gender Policy, at both the national and regional levels, to supervise the implementation of the National Plan to secure Gender Equality too is a notable development. As highlighted by the ILO Committee of Experts in 2009, it is noteworthy that the Government of Belarus has taken effective measures to combat trafficking in women and children, which have led to a significant decrease in the number of victims registered in the country

5. Lastly, while we take positive note of the increased attention being devoted to the rights of the disabled, we would encourage Belarus to consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We would also encourage Belarus to establish a National Human Rights Institution accredited by the ICC and in full compliance with Paris Principles.

Thank you, Mr. President.
