

UPR WORKING GROUP – ELEVENTH SESSION
(02-13 May 2011)

UPR of DENMARK – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
02 May 2011

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Denmark led byand thanks the delegation for its presentation and its National Report, which provides an informative overview of the situation of human rights in the country in a candid manner. The Government of Denmark has taken several commendable initiatives over the years to promote and protect human rights, including the rights of vulnerable populations, persons with disabilities, the elderly and the mentally ill.

2. The National Report highlights the efforts being made to combat racism and ethnic discrimination and to promote integration of immigrants and refugees in the Danish society. Nevertheless, as acknowledged in the National Report itself, the Government faces considerable challenges in this regard. CESCR has expressed concern at the increasing negative and hostile attitudes towards foreigners, and has recommended monitoring the incidence of, and combating, racism and xenophobia. Further, CERD has recommended the strengthening of efforts to promote people from other ethnic backgrounds to serve as police officers in order to achieve a racially balanced police service. We would request the delegation to provide information about the progress made in the implementation of this recommendation.

3. Over the last decade, the Government has made a concerted effort to combat violence against women. However, CEDAW has called upon Denmark to adopt a specific law on violence against women, including domestic violence. The Special Rapporteur on Torture too has recommended, as a

priority for the Greenland Home Rule Government, developing and implementing an adequately resourced plan of action against domestic violence. In this regard, we would request the delegation to provide information about steps taken to implement these recommendations.

4. In conclusion, Mr. President, we would like the delegation to clarify if the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the national human rights institution, has the power to inquire, *suo motu* or otherwise, into complaints of violations of human rights, or whether its mandate is solely restricted to conducting research and imparting training on human rights issues. Further, in line with the recommendation of CRC, we recommend that Denmark establish an independent body to promote and protect the rights of the child and to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Thank you, Mr. President.
