

UPR WORKING GROUP - NINTH SESSION

(01-12 November 2010)

UPR of LEBANON- INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

10 November 2010

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Lebanon led by H.E..... and thanks the delegation for its candid National Report as well as its presentation today morning.

The Government of Lebanon, in its National Report, has acknowledged the severe challenges and constraints it faces in securing the human rights of its population, in view of the overwhelming political, economic and social instability witnessed since 2005, which in turn, has adversely impacted upon the implementation of plans meant to further the promotion and protection of human rights. As noted by the UN Country Team, the cumulative effect of prolonged political uncertainty, a major armed conflict and repeated paralysis of key institutions has not favoured a consistent, nationwide effort for human rights. Nevertheless, the recent improvements in political stability, which have allowed for noteworthy economic growth as well as the holding of parliamentary elections and the subsequent formation of a national unity government in 2009, are a welcome development indeed.

We take positive note of the institutional initiatives launched in recent years such as the establishment of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, the Office of the Directorate-General of Human Rights and

the National Commission to Combat Trafficking, as well as policy measures with regard to the adoption of a national plan of action for human rights and a unified contract for migrant domestic workers. In particular, we appreciate the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee, which is currently developing the country's first National Social Development Strategy, with an aim to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of social spending, broaden coverage of the social security net and reduce disparity in service delivery.

The National Report acknowledges that as a result of successive conflicts and the consequent forced population displacements, the country is facing a housing crisis of immense proportions. The large number of refugees hosted by Lebanon has only exacerbated the problem. In this regard, we would request the delegation to inform us about the measures being taken to resolve the situation and to secure the right of its citizens to adequate and decent housing.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we would encourage the Government of Lebanon to expedite the establishment a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles. We would also encourage the Government to consider ratifying the CRPD and the OP-CRC-AC, conventions to which it is a signatory.

Thank you, Mr. President.
