

UPR WORKING GROUP - SECOND SESSION

(5-19 May 2008)

UPR of SRI LANKA – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

(13 May 2008)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

*HE Mr. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister
of Disaster Management & Human Rights*

Mr. Chairman, ~~Madam High Commissioner~~, Distinguished Members of the Delegation of Sri Lanka!

My delegation would like to warmly welcome the delegation of Sri Lanka which is a close and friendly neighbour with whom we share historical ties. We would also like to thank them for their comprehensively produced National Report which clearly identifies Sri Lanka's national priorities and its capacity building and technical assistance needs. The analysis in the Report of the conformity of Sri Lankan law with key international instruments on human and labour rights to which Sri Lanka is a state party is also useful.

Mr. Chairman,

2. The success of Sri Lanka in providing free education to its people is clearly shown by the fact that it has achieved an adult literacy rate of 90.7 per cent and is indeed praiseworthy. My delegation would like to seek additional information about the laudable initiative, referred to in paragraph 38 of the Report, to facilitate greater communication and understanding amongst communities by encouraging the study of languages of other communities from the primary level.

Mr. Chairman,

3. My delegation has noted with interest the fact that the Government of Sri Lanka has established a Steering Group to draft a constitutional charter of rights aimed at reinforcing the values of respect for human dignity of all the people of Sri Lanka, regardless of ethnicity, culture, language, religious affiliation, gender, caste or any similar factors.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Sri Lanka's cooperation with the UN System is also noteworthy and it has played an active role a member of the Human Rights Council. We would like to wish the friendly people of Sri Lanka peace and prosperity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.