

**UPR WORKING GROUP FIRST SESSION**

(7-18 April 2008)

**UPR of SOUTH AFRICA – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**

(15 April 2008)

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. Chairman, Madam High Commissioner, Distinguished Members of the Delegation of South Africa!

My delegation would like to thank the delegation of South Africa for their excellent presentation which gave us a comprehensive overview of the achievements, as well as the challenges faced, in the promotion and protection of human rights in South Africa. The emergence of South Africa as a mature democracy with an unwavering commitment to democratic principles and ideals is an inspiring story worthy of emulation and applause. The fact that this has been achieved by preserving and promoting the multi-cultural and pluralistic character of society is one of the significant accomplishments that South Africa can be justifiably proud of.

Mr. Chairman,

Education is one of the most powerful tools for engendering social change and for opening up avenues for economic advancement. My delegation would be interested in hearing from the delegation of South Africa about the steps that they have taken or are planning to take to promote universal primary education especially among the disadvantaged sections of society.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

∟ We are happy to hear from the delegation of South Africa that their country is set to achieve the MDG 2 relating to universal Primary education by 2015.