

UPR WORKING GROUP – Twelfth SESSION

(03-14 October 2011)

UPR of Venezuela – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

(07 October 2011)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Madam President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, led by H.E. Nicolas Maduro Moros , Foreign Minister and thanks the delegation for its presentation and National report. The report has enabled us to have a snapshot of the range of measures and efforts undertaken by the Government of Venezuela for the promotion and protection of human rights.

02. We take positive note of the establishment of the Special Directorate for Children and adolescence rights in the office of the Ombudsman, which has been accredited with “A” status by the International Co-ordination Committee. We encourage Venezuela to maintain the independence of this office and continue providing it with necessary resources to carry out its responsibilities.

03. We commend the steps taken by the Government to put in place legislation and public policies in the areas of gender equality, youth, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples. Institutions and social programmes such as the Banco Nacional de la Mujer, and the Vuelvan Caras and Madres del Barrio missions are significant measures to improve women’s economic rights and their participation in social and political life. Such measures aimed at gender equality have also drawn appreciation from CEDAW.

04. The report points to poverty as one of the main factors responsible for violations of human rights. Venezuela has successfully brought down the

number of households living in extreme poverty from 21% in 1998 to 7.1% in 2010. It is significant that the FAO ranked Venezuela tenth among the best-nourished countries in the world.

05. In conclusion, the report states that Venezuela has the fifth highest gross university enrolment rate in the world (85%). We would like more information on its model of “universal access to university education” which aims to take education to all regardless of age, family circumstances, financial resources or employment situation. How has this model ensured the quality of education, what has been the success ratio of the enrolled students and how has it enhanced the employment prospects of the students? Thank you, Madam President.
