

UPR WORKING GROUP - Twelfth SESSION

(3-14 October 2011)

UPR of The Kingdom of Swaziland- INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

(04 October 2011)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Madam President,

India welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Swaziland led by Hon. Rev. David Mathse, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. We thank the delegation for the presentation of its National report, which provides an overview of the achievements and efforts made by the Kingdom of Swaziland in securing the full enjoyment of human rights by all its citizens.

02. We take positive note of the progress achieved by the Kingdom in the crucial area of elementary education with the implementation of the Free Primary Education Act of 2010 that has led to a significant increase in the net enrolment ratio and the Inclusive Education (IE) policy in all schools to enable disabled children to access education without obvious barriers. We encourage the government to strengthen further the recently launched programme for the provision of free medical treatment for the elderly. We also welcome the government's initiation of the process of drafting the Human Rights Commission Bill and a Leadership Code of Conduct Bill to give effect to the Constitutional provisions relating to the NHRI.

03. In 2009, the Complementary Country Analysis stated that women were particularly affected by poverty because of limited employment opportunities and control over their earnings and capital. We encourage the Kingdom of Swaziland to enhance women's empowerment through affording them opportunities for work as well as according them full rights to property.

Madam President,

04. The report of the Kingdom of Swaziland draws attention to the onerous reporting obligations of a State Party with respect to various human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies. My delegation would like to urge the OHCHR to discuss methods and frameworks, in consultation with States, through which it is ensured that these reporting obligations are streamlined and submitted in time.

05. We note with interest the key priorities, initiatives and commitments that the Kingdom of Swaziland has set out for itself in the national report and we wish them well in their efforts.

Thank You, Madam President.

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