

**UPR WORKING GROUP –FOURTH SESSION**  
**(2-13 FEBRUARY 2009)**

**UPR of SAUDI ARABIA – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**  
**(February 6, 2009)**

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. President,

My delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia<sup>headed by Dr. Zaid Al-Hussain, Vice President of the Human Rights Committee of the Kingdom</sup>. We express our appreciation for their comprehensive presentation. We congratulate Saudi Arabia for the open and inclusive approach adopted in the preparation of its National Report. We applaud the transparent manner in which the report portrays the ways in which human rights are being promoted in the country, while at the same time, highlighting the difficulties that it is facing in its endeavors. We further welcome the emphasis the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia places on its commitment to co-operate fully with every institution seeking to safeguard, promote and enhance human rights.

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the following significant initiatives taken by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to protect and promote human rights:

Firstly, the setting up of The King Abdul Aziz Centre for National Dialogue which provides a platform facilitating dialogue among all members of society;

Secondly, the setting up of a National Human Rights Commission with the objective to promote and protect human rights in conformity with international human rights standards in all fields and to propagate awareness thereof; and,

Thirdly, the effort to enhance civil society participation by the granting of authorization for the establishment of a number of non-governmental organizations operating in numerous fields and in particular , the setting up of the National Society for Human Rights with the objective of promoting and protecting human rights.

These efforts validate the commitment of the Government to set up institutions which uphold, protect and promote human rights and we wish them well in their endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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