

**UPR WORKING GROUP SECOND SESSION**  
(5-19 May 2008)

**UPR of SWITZERLAND – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**  
(8 May 2008)

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

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

My delegation would like to congratulate the delegation of Switzerland for their excellent national report which depicts, in an open and candid manner, the human rights situation in the country.

Mr. Chairman,

2. The CRC recommended in 2002 that Switzerland establish a federal independent human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. The Human Rights Committee has recommended likewise as well as the Swiss civil society representatives who were consulted in the preparation of the National Report. My delegation, therefore, *recommends* that Switzerland consider the establishment of a Paris Principles compliant national human rights institution at the earliest.
3. The reports of CEDAW and the Human Rights Committee point to several areas of concern with regard to the position of women e.g. there is no definition in domestic law of “discrimination against women”, problems experienced by migrant women, equal pay for equal work. It is *recommended* that Switzerland consider the establishment of a National

Commission for Women to facilitate a holistic consideration at the national level of issues related to women.

Mr. Chairman,

4. We have noted from paragraph 46 of the National Report that the prohibition of slavery is not formally established in the Federal Constitution of Switzerland. My delegation would request the delegation of Switzerland to help us understand why this is the case.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.