

UPR WORKING GROUP - ELEVENTH SESSION
(02-13 May 2011)

UPR of GREECE - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
(09 May 2011)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Greece led by and thanks the delegation for its presentation and its National Report, which provides an overview of the institutional and legislative initiatives taken to promote and protect human rights in the country.

2. Many of these initiatives focus on promoting gender equality, such as the National Program for Substantive Equality 2010-'13, developed by the General Secretariat for Gender Equality, which comprises three pillars, concerning, respectively, improvement of the relevant legislation, gender equality policies and gender mainstreaming. CEDAW too has commended Greece on recent legal reforms aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, including the adoption of the Law on Combating Domestic Violence. At the same time, CEDAW has expressed concern about the rate of high unemployment among females, the concentration of women in low-paid sectors of employment and the wage gap between women and men. We would request the delegation to provide details of measures being taken to promote equal opportunities in the labour market, to eliminate occupational

segregation and to narrow and close the wage gap between women and men.

3. The Office of the Ombudsman and the National Commission for Human Rights are active on a broad range of human rights issues. However, with regard to combating discrimination, concerns have been expressed about the sharing competence on discrimination issues between the Office of the Ombudsman, the Committee for Equal Treatment and the Labour Inspectorate. The National Report too states that since 2005, the Ombudsman operates as one of the equal treatment bodies responsible for the implementation of the anti-discrimination legislation. In this regard, we would request the delegation to inform us if any progress has been made in implementing CERD's recommendation to consider giving overall powers to receive complaints of racial discrimination to the Office of the Ombudsman, which could then co-ordinate with the other relevant institutions.

4. In conclusion, Mr. President, we would recommend Greece to consider ratifying the CRPD, to which it is a signatory.

Thank you, Mr. President.
