

UPR WORKING GROUP – THIRD SESSION
(1- 15 December 2008)

UPR of SERBIA – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President, Distinguished Members of the Delegation of Serbia,

My delegation would like to welcome the Delegation of Serbia and thank them for their comprehensive and detailed presentation.

We note with interest the large number of laws and other regulations relevant to the protection and promotion of human rights enacted by the Republic of Serbia and its commitment to international treaties.

With regard to the establishment of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights in 2008 which is mandated with the protection and promotion of human and minority rights, we would request the delegation of Serbia to share with us their initial experiences in the launching of this initiative.

We commend Serbia for setting up the Council for Child Rights, the Council for National Minorities, the Council for Gender equality and the Council for improving the status of Roma.

We also take note of the Office of the Ombudsman/Civic Defender and its inclusion in the legal system by the adoption of the Ombudsman Law

in 2005. Would the delegation like to inform us how the office of the Ombudsman is different from that of a National Human Rights Institution ?

We note with appreciation Serbia's expressed desire to further strengthen protection of human rights by outlining its priorities at the end of its National Report. It is indicative of their desire to cooperate with all concerned at the national, regional and international levels with the objective of promoting and protecting human rights. We wish them well in their endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. President.