

UPR of COTE D'IVOIRE – Interactive dialogue
(3 December 2009; 1430-1730h)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Cote d'Ivoire led by H.E. Tia Kone', President of the Supreme Court of Cote d'Ivoire and thanks them for their informative National Report and presentation. As we are all aware, the country faces daunting challenges and constraints in the promotion and protection of human rights in view of the political turmoil that the country has undergone in its recent history. After protracted and complex political negotiations, the Ouagadougou Political Agreement of 2007 has resulted in some noteworthy successes, including redeployment of Government agencies throughout the national territory and the commencement of disarmament; while paving the way for a campaign against impunity, enforcement of the rule of law and launch of administrative reforms. In this context, it would also be desirable to emphasise the promotion and monitoring of human rights, crucial as they are to the normalization of the political situation and restoration of the durable peace.

India takes positive note of the Constitution of 2000, which has 28 articles dealing with human rights, and the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission. We encourage Cote d'Ivoire to ensure that this institution is in full compliance with the Paris Principles. While we appreciate that Côte d'Ivoire is Party to almost all principal international and regional human rights instruments, we would urge Cote d'Ivoire to consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and both the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The National Health Development Plan is a significant step towards securing the right of all to primary health care, with its particular focus on addressing maternal

mortality, enhancing immunization coverage and combating HIV/AIDS through provision of free anti-retroviral drugs. It is commendable that Cote d'Ivoire has allocated 8.41% of its budget on health and adopted a comprehensive care strategy for orphans and children vulnerable through HIV/AIDS.

In conclusion, Mr. President, while encouraging early elections, we take positive note of the significant progress made by the authorities on voter registration and identification. We sincerely hope that the elections are held at the earliest, as a testimony of Cote d'Ivoire's commitment to the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement. We wish them well in this endeavour.

Thank you, Mr. President.
