

UPR WORKING GROUP - TENTH SESSION
(JAN 24 - FEB 4, 2011)

AMBASSADOR

UPR of NAMIBIA - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Jan 31, 2011; 1430-1730 hrs

(M)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Namibia led by _____.
We thank the delegation for its presentation and the informative national report which provides a candid account of the country's background, the existing legal and institutional framework as well as remaining challenges in the field of human rights.

Mr President,

2. For a country that suffered acutely under apartheid and inherited serious socio-economic inequalities and structural distortions from the colonial regime, Namibia's transition to a largely stable, parliamentary democracy is commendable. We appreciate the attention being devoted to enshrining respect for human rights in its Constitution and various laws and programmes since its independence, as also to establishing independence of oversight mechanisms like the judiciary and the Office of the Ombudsman. We take positive note of the steps taken by Namibia to protect the environment, despite its limited arable resources, pressure on food security and high significance of the mining sector to its economy. We also take positive note of the high percentage of public expenditure

invested in education and health sectors. In 2008, the CERD welcomed Namibia's efforts to combat discrimination in various areas, particularly education.

Mr President,

3. As mentioned in the report itself, Namibia has one of the world's highest income inequalities. We would request the delegation to share the Government's plans to reduce these inequalities. We would also request the delegation to provide information on plans and challenges relating to curbing perennial food deficits which are a concern noted by many agencies, including the World Food Programme. Lastly, we would encourage Namibia to continue its efforts to improve the administration of justice, and expand the participation of indigenous peoples and minorities in socio-economic development, as recommended by relevant UN treaty bodies.

Thank you, Mr President.
