

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

UPR of BARBADOS – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

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

My delegation would like to welcome the Delegation of Barbados and thank them for their detailed and informative presentation. We would like to congratulate the delegation for the initiatives taken by Barbados in the furtherance of the objective of promotion and protection of human rights.

My delegation would like to commend Barbados for viewing health care as a fundamental right and for providing a range of family health services at its polyclinics. We have also been impressed to learn that Barbados has a combined gross enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools of 88 per cent. The commitment to provide free education, cash grants, school uniforms and grant assistance for textbooks for those in need in order to facilitate school attendance, in particular that of girl children, has contributed to that success. We complement Barbados for having achieved a female literacy rate of approximately 97 per cent, which indeed is commendable.

We note with interest the setting up of the Governance Advisory Unit in 2008 to ensure and facilitate the timely achievement of the Government's good governance objectives.

We also note with appreciation the commitment of Barbados to promote grassroots democracy by adopting the Community Empowerment Programme which aims to set up a system for local government. We wish the Government and the people of Barbados well and success in their endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.