

**UPR WORKING GROUP – EIGHTH SESSION
(MAY 3-14, 2010)**

UPR of GUYANA– INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

May 11, 2010; 0900-1200 hrs

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Guyana led by H.E. Hon'ble Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and thanks the delegation for its comprehensive National Report and informative presentation. Over the last decade, Guyana has made notable efforts to reconstruct the country and consolidate its democracy. The new expanded Parliamentary Committee system is noteworthy and has been instrumental in enacting a series of human rights statutes. The revised Constitution too has authorized five Commissions in the domain of human rights. While we are aware of the establishment and functioning of the Ethics Relations Commission, we would request the delegation to expedite the establishment of the remaining Commissions.

2. It is a creditable achievement that Guyana has progressed from being categorized as a Low Developing Country to a Low Middle Developing Country in 2006 and is projected to meet five of the eight MDGs in 2015. The total budgetary spending in the social sector has increased markedly over the years, and in most recent years, exceeded 20 per cent of the GDP consistently. The UNDAF has highlighted progress made in the construction of social infrastructure. The country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes have contributed substantially to the reduction of poverty. The success of such interventions is reflected in the rising per capita income, considerable reduction in infant, child and maternal mortality, and malnutrition, and an increase in life expectancy.

3. Over the last decade, hundreds of schools have been built and rehabilitated throughout the country. As a result, enrolment and retention

rates have improved, particularly at the primary level. However, CRC has expressed concern about the high dropout rates, especially among boys at higher levels of education. We would request the delegation to inform us of the measures taken in this regard.

4. The National Report refers to an upsurge in criminal activity which is posing a challenge to national security and threatening the significant advances made by Guyana with regard to securing the human rights of its population. We take a positive note of the steps taken by the Government to comprehensively address this situation.

5. Lastly, Mr. President, we would encourage Guyana to establish an independent national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles. We would like to encourage Guyana to consider ratifying the CRPD and the two Optional Protocols to the CRC. We would also encourage it to continue its efforts to strengthen measures vis-à-vis the human rights of its indigenous population.

Thank you, Mr. President.