

UPR WORKING GROUP –FOURTH SESSION
(2-13 FEBRUARY 2009)

UPR of CUBA – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
(Thursday 5th February)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

My delegation warmly welcomes the Delegation of Cuba, led by Her Excellency Mrs. Maria Eshter Reus, ^{GONZALEZ} Minister of Justice. We have had close, friendly and historic ties with Cuba, a fellow NAM member and the current Chair of the Movement. Over the years, Cuba has contributed to the human rights debate with its characteristic energy and intensity. We thank the delegation for their comprehensive presentation today and would like to take this opportunity to commend Cuba for their open, cooperative and constructive participation in the UPR mechanism.

Mr. President,

We welcome the fact that Cuba has signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2008. My delegation congratulates Cuba for its impressive achievements in the education and the health sectors, as reflected in the high allocation of budgetary resources to education, the nearly universal school enrollment and very high university enrollment rates that they have been able to achieve.

Likewise, Cuba's guaranteed access to quality health services, free of charge, through a state-funded, intensively staffed and extensively spread national health system, is a laudable achievement. In this regard, India ^{recommends} ~~requests~~ the delegation of Cuba to share its experiences and good practices with regard to the Right to Health, in particular the maternal and child care programs as well as HIV/AIDS control programs. Further, in view of the growing aging population, we would also like to recommend to Cuba to continue and consolidate its programs for the benefit of the aged and the elderly.

Thank you, Mr. President.
