

UPR WORKING GROUP - Twelfth SESSION

(03-14 October 2011)

UPR of Zimbabwe- INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

(10 October 2011)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Madam President,

India extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Zimbabwe, led by H.E Patrick Chinamasa, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs and thanks them for their presentation and the national report that gives an overview of the legislative and normative framework for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

02. While the report highlights progress made in promoting the participation of women in politics and decision-making at the highest levels, the report itself acknowledges the lack of specific legislative provisions on quota as a barrier to increased representation of women in elective bodies. We hope that the Constitutional review process that is underway will facilitate in establishing a firm foundation for the promotion and protection of human rights for all Zimbabweans and pay particular attention to vulnerable groups, including women and children.

03. We commend the achievement of Zimbabwe in improving the literacy rate which as per UN figures is at 92%, the highest in Africa. We would encourage the Government to address the CRC's concern that primary education is neither free nor compulsory. This would help Zimbabwe move closer to the MDG goal 2 of achieving universal primary education by 2015.

04. We take note of the challenges outlined in the report, including, in particular, that of food insecurity, caused by climate change and inadequate financial support and declining agricultural productivity. We would request the delegation to elaborate on how the government proposes to confront these challenges, both in the immediate and in the long term.

05. To conclude, Madam President, while we take note of the establishment of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, we would urge Zimbabwe to establish a National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles accredited by the International Coordinating Committee at the earliest. We wish them well in this endeavour.

Thank you, Madam President.

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