

UPR of EGYPT - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Feb 17, 2010; 0900-1200 hrs

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Egypt led by H.E. Dr. Mofeed Shehab, Minister for Legal Affairs and Parliamentary Councils, and thanks the delegation for its presentation of the informative and forward-looking National Report. We commend the Report for the candid acknowledgement of many of the human rights challenges being faced by Egypt, and the voluntary pledges with regard to these challenges.

Mr. President,

02. We appreciate the various steps being taken Egypt to strengthen the human rights culture. Egypt has an accredited national human rights institution and is party to most of the core international human rights instruments. In the civil and political rights domain, Egypt is consolidating its multi-party democracy and has announced a time-frame to lift the state of emergency. It is implementing the decision of its courts on the rights of communities like the Baha'is *not* to have to declare a religion other than their own in official identity documents. We take positive note of the voluntary pledge to review the definition of torture in Egyptian law. In the economic, social and cultural rights domain too, Egypt's attainments are noteworthy, especially in health, where the Government's initiatives have led to a marked improvement, and women's rights, including the various measures taken to enhance the empowerment

of women, and Egypt's success at curbing harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation. In 2009, the Independent Expert on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation lauded the Government for its vision and strategy to provide access to water and sanitation for all. We also commend the delegation for having devoted a separate section in the Report on the Right to Development.

03. We request the delegation to share information on measures being adopted by the Government to tackle the impact of its structural adjustment policies and the global financial and economic crises, on the social sector, especially on issues relating to women. We encourage the Government to continue to strengthen its developmental efforts for religious minorities and non-denominational religious groups. We welcome the delegation's emphasis on a society's need for continuous improvement of human rights and wish them well in their efforts.

Thank you, Mr President.
