

UPR of ITALY - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Feb 9, 2010; 1000-1300 hrs

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Italy led by H.E. Mr. Vincenzo Scotti, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, and thanks the delegation for its presentation and its comprehensive National Report.

02. The Report provides a detailed overview of Italy's normative and institutional framework for protection of human rights in the country, as also useful information on the nature of human rights challenges facing the country, including those relating to asylum, immigration, trafficking and integration. We appreciate both the priority being accorded by the government to the various human rights challenges and the Report's candid acknowledgment of the persistence of prejudice and racist attitudes in some sections of the society. In this regard, we are encouraged by the government's approach that its efforts to tackle this issue need to go beyond legal measures. Italy's establishment of a National Office for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2004 has been commended by various treaty bodies, including CERD and CESCR. We have also noted its adoption of a National Action Plan Against Racism, in consonance with the DDPA. Further, the country's emphasis on, and accomplishments in, human rights education are laudable.

Mr. President,

03. Considerable concern has been expressed, including by the government itself, about the situation of various minority groups in the country. We would request the delegation to share with us their views on what they perceive to be the biggest challenges in this regard, and any *new* measures that the government plans to take to meet these challenges. In addition, we would request the delegation's views on some concerns that have been expressed about the need for human rights due diligence by the country's oil companies in respect of their overseas operations.

04. Lastly, Mr. President, we recommend that Italy consider establishing, at the earliest, a national human rights institution that is compliant with Paris Principles. We also recommend that it continue its efforts to strengthen a culture of tolerance to eliminate all forms of discrimination against vulnerable groups.

Thank you, Mr. President.
