

Progress report of WG on the Universal Periodic Review  
(October 2, 2006)

Intervention by India

We thank the Ambassador of Morocco for his progress report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. As we have noted from <sup>his</sup> statement, a considerable amount of work has already been done ~~in~~ <sup>with</sup> regard to compilation of initial ideas and proposals from delegations as well as other stakeholders on this new and probably the most important element of the Human Rights Council. This has only brought to the fore the variety of views that exist on various aspects of the UPR. The unifying theme, of course, is that all of us want the UPR to be a cooperative exercise and not a confrontational one. There is also acceptance for the underlying objective of this exercise <sup>which is</sup> to enhance a State's capacity to promote and protect human rights within its own ~~country~~ <sup>territory</sup>.

Mr. President,

<sup>primary</sup> My delegation has already expressed our detailed views on the main features and characteristics of the UPR in the framework of the informal meetings of the Working Group. To recall ~~them~~ <sup>these</sup> briefly, we view the UPR as a mechanism to review human rights situations in countries in a positive manner with the ~~sole~~ <sup>primary</sup> objective of identifying areas for cooperation with the country concerned with a view to enhancing its capacity for promotion and protection of human rights. The UPR could also serve as a useful forum for exchanging best practices and identifying specific options for technical cooperation.

At this meeting, we would like to focus on the way forward and would request the views of the President and the facilitator in this regard. We welcome the announcement of dates for the formal meetings of the Working Groups. We note that between the Second and the Third Session of the HRC, the Working Group on the UPR will ~~meet for one week in~~ <sup>have formal</sup> November. In addition, we will continue to have informal consultations <sup>in sessions in</sup> as before. Here, we need to keep in mind the progress in the work of the

working group on the review and rationalization of the mandates and mechanisms. The process of development of the UPR would necessarily raise overlapping issues that would have a bearing on the review and rationalization of mandates and mechanisms and therefore the work in these two working groups should progress in tandem. We should also be sensitive to the needs of the smaller delegations and, therefore, the schedule of <sup>meetings</sup> should be announced well in advance in order to enable the delegations to participate effectively. We would suggest that the schedule of <sup>meetings</sup> be announced before the end of this session.

Thank you.