

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

UPR of BANGLADESH – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
(3 February 2009)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to extend a warm welcome to the high-level delegation of Bangladesh led by Her Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister and thank them for their excellent presentation and National Report which contain detailed and useful information about the country's achievements and challenges. Bangladesh is a friendly neighbour with whom we share close ties rooted in our common history and culture.

My delegation would like to congratulate the delegation of Bangladesh for the significant steps taken recently to strengthen democracy and enhance the promotion and protection of human rights. In particular, the successful holding of parliamentary elections and the coming to power of an elected government recently are positive developments. Other important steps include the enactment of the Right to Information Act as well as the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission. Indeed, India's own experience with regard to the two initiatives, which were introduced some time ago, has been a very positive one.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation also welcomes the significant progress made by Bangladesh in the field of primary education where the attention given to

universal free primary education has resulted in impressive gains in terms of the high net enrolment rate which was as high as nearly 92 % in 2007. The positive ratio of girls to boys in enrolment is noteworthy and this achievement of gender parity in school enrolment has been commended by CEDAW as also the increase in the literacy rates for girls and women.

Mr. Chairman,

I would conclude by wishing the Government and friendly people of Bangladesh all success in their endeavours for building a better and more prosperous future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
