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UPR WORKING GROUP - THIRTEENTH SESSION

(21 May - 4 June, 2012)

UPR of FINLAND - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

21 May 2012; 2:30-1800 hrs

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. Vice President,

India welcomes the delegation of Finland led by H.E. Heidi Hautala, Minister for International Development and thanks the delegation for its National Report and presentation.

2. We take positive note of the efforts made by the Government of Finland in implementing the recommendations it received during its first UPR and appreciate the publication of the voluntary intermediary report on implementation of the UPR recommendations at the 14th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2010. In this regard, we welcome positive steps such as the launch of the Equality First Project to combat discrimination, adoption of an integration policy, efforts to combat and prevent racism and xenophobia, especially on the Internet and the launch of the National Action Plan to reduce violence against women.

3. At the same time, concerns have been raised regarding the non-recognition of victims of trafficking and their resultant treatment as witnesses in cases concerning prostitution. We would be interested in hearing from the delegation how they plan to address this issue.

4. We welcome the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), which will be operational in 2012 and *recommend that Finland ensures that this Institution is fully compliant with the Paris Principles*

5. We admire Finland's advances in the field of education, its success

in curbing corruption and its achievements in advancing the rights of its citizens in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

6. We wish Finland well in its future endeavours to further promote and protect human rights in the country.

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.