**GHANA -- STATEMENT ON UPR OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.**

Madam President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of India, and commend the government for the steps taken to implement some of the recommendations accepted at the last UPR, and its efforts to address the needs of vulnerable groups of the society.

With a population of 1.2 billion, adequately addressing the needs of the varied sections of the population poses formidable challenges, and it is all too easy to overlook the interests of the vulnerable groups. We therefore welcome the progressive policy initiatives and measures put in place for the promotion and protection of the welfare and the rights of the vulnerable including women, girls and children, as well as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Minorities.

The effectiveness of these programmes and initiatives, however, depend to a large extent, on effective supervision and monitoring of implementation. We therefore recommend that the government put in place appropriate monitoring mechanisms.

We welcome the emphasis on social rehabilitation and mainstreaming of issues concerning persons with disabilities, and urge the Government to expedite the drawing up of new legislation to replace the Persons with Disabilities Act (PDA) 1995, incorporating all aspects of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We echo the concern raised by the UNHCR about the lack of a national refugee protection framework, and support the recommendation that India consider ratifying the Conventions relating to refugees and stateless persons. We also recommend the ratification of ILO Convention Nos.

138 – Minimum Age Convention,

182, - Worst Forms of Child Labour

169, - Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention

155 – Occupational Safety and Health Convention, and

170 – Chemicals Convention 1990

I thank you Madam President.