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UPR WORKING GROUP – FOURTEENTH SESSION

(22 OCTOBER – 5 NOVEMBER, 2012)

UPR of SWITZERLAND – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

29 OCTOBER 2012: 0900 -1230 hrs

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

President,

India extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Switzerland led by Mr. Didier Burkhalter and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its National Report which provides an overview of developments in the human rights situation of the country including follow-up action on recommendations in the first Review.

2. India commends Switzerland for all the legislative measures, policies and programmes to strengthen gender equality and women's rights, including the introduction of maternity leave with pay, as well as legal provisions and programmes to combat violence against and trafficking in women. We are encouraged by the activities of the Federal Office of Equality for Persons with Disabilities. We urge the government of Switzerland to consider acceding to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

3. We appreciate Switzerland's commitment to end all forms of discrimination. However, we are concerned about the lack of progress in combating racism and xenophobia. **India recommends Switzerland to enact a comprehensive anti-discrimination law enforced uniformly throughout the Confederation.**

4. There have also been concerns regarding the high rate of unemployment among migrants, women and young people, especially those of foreign origin. We would request the delegation of Switzerland to throw some light on the steps taken to promote their integration in their labour market.

5. Finally, we wish to express our appreciation for Switzerland's tradition of commitment to human rights and encourage them to continue to do so. We wish them all success in this regard.

Thank you.
