

UPR WORKING GROUP – FOURTEENTH SESSION

(21 JANUARY- 1 FEBRUARY, 2013)

UPR of FRANCE – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

21 JANUARY 2013: 0900 -1230 hrs

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of France led by _____ and thanks it 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. We note with appreciation the various initiatives taken by the Government of France to improve implementation of recommendations accepted in the first review.

3. As a secular, multi-cultural and multi-ethnic state, India remains concerned about discrimination on the grounds of religion and ethnicity. The prevalence of ethnic profiling is disturbing and there is no proof that it makes law enforcement more effective. **We recommend that France puts an end to this practice which is ineffective and counter-productive.**

4. *We would like to draw the attention of the delegation of France to the views adopted by the Human Rights Committee at its 106th session in November 2012 on the expulsion of an Indian student from a public school for wearing a keski. As a signatory to the ICCPR, we urge the Government of France to provide effective and enforceable remedy and inform the Committee about the measures taken to give effect to the Committee's views.*

5. India shares the concerns of the Special Rapporteurs on housing, migrants' rights, minority rights and racism about the forcible eviction of an estimated 4,000 Roma people in 2012 and **recommends that immediate**

and effective steps are taken to address the discrimination perpetrated against them.

6. The enjoyment of rights to freedom of association and freedom of assembly are essential for children's development. The use of high frequency ultra sound devices, flash ball devices and taser guns are violation of these rights. **India recommends France to ban the use of such harmful devices.**

7. There have also been concerns regarding the high rate of unemployment among migrants, women and young people, especially among racial, ethnic and national minorities. **India recommends France to take steps to promote their integration into France's labour market.**

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