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**UPR WORKING GROUP – FIFTEENTH SESSION**

**(21 JANUARY- 1 FEBRUARY, 2013)**

**UPR of UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:-- INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**

**28 JANUARY 2013: 1430 -1800 hrs**

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of United Arab Emirates led by Dr. Anwar Mohammed Gargash and thanks it for the presentation of its National Report.

2. We note with appreciation the initiatives taken by the Government of United Arab Emirates in its domestic laws, legislation and regulations. We hope that adequate monitoring mechanisms exist to ensure the implementation of the legislations. India notes the establishment of the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Department of Special Education, Committee on employment for persons with disabilities and Committee to combat human trafficking offences.

3. India welcomes the wide range of inter-related national policies and strategies, including the Emirates

Vision 2011. The corpus of laws and regulations taken to ensure that women have equal civil, political and economic rights is a welcome step. It is heartening to note the increasing numbers of women joining the diplomatic service. We recommend the Government of United Arab Emirates to continue to enact legislations and strengthen policies which are necessary to empower women and strengthen their role in society.

4. With close to 4 million migrant workers representing 200 nationalities, the Government of United Arab Emirates has an important responsibility towards their welfare. The National Report of UAE refers to the Contract Validation System to protect workers from deception or fraud in the recruitment process. On 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2012, India was the first country to sign a Protocol under the Memorandum of Understanding on Manpower for joint launch of an Electronic Contract and Validation System with the UAE. This system when brought to full operation will ensure full transparency of the contractual employment terms and conditions, disclose such terms to the prospective workers and ensure informed consent of workers to the same terms prior to being deployed to the UAE. India has undertaken the necessary steps for operationalising of this system. We urge early implementation of this bilateral Electronic Contract and

Validation System to ensure protection and welfare of the migrant workers coming from India.

5. We also recommend UAE to ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

6. We wish United Arab Emirates success in its future endeavours in the protection and promotion of human rights.

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