

**UPR WORKING GROUP – SEVENTEENTH SESSION**

(21 October – 1 November 2013)

49

**UPR OF SAUDI ARABIA – INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**

(21 October 2013: 0900 – 1230 hrs)

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

**Mr. President,**

India warmly welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and thanks the delegation for its National Report and today's presentation.

2. India commends the efforts of the Government of Saudi Arabia to streamline the labour situation in the country by announcing an extended grace period till November 3, 2013 providing an opportunity to overstaying migrant workers to correct their legal status or to leave the country without facing penal action, which benefitted a large number of migrant workers.
3. We commend Saudi Arabia's efforts in advancing the protection of children and applaud the enactment of the Child Protection Act last year which seeks to protect children against all forms of violence.
4. We take positive note the two MoUs signed with OHCHR on Technical Cooperation and deployment of a Human Rights Adviser in Saudi Arabia.
5. We are encouraged by the Kingdom's identification of fighting corruption as a national priority and in this regard welcome the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
6. We take positive note of the Cabinet Decision of last year permitting grant of citizenship rights to children of Saudi women married to non-nationals. We encourage Saudi Arabia to continue its efforts in promoting education for women and children.
7. We wish the delegation of Saudi Arabia well in its future endeavours.

Thank you, President.