

UPR WORKING GROUP – 20th SESSION
(27 October - 7 November 2014)

UPR of Iraq - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
(Monday, 3rd November 2014: 14:30-18:00 hrs)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Iraq led by H.E. Abdulkareem Abdullah Shallal Al-Janabi, Deputy Minister of Human Rights at its second Universal Periodic Review and thanks it for its National report and presentation.

2. We commend the action taken by Iraq in implementing the recommendations accepted at its first UPR, incorporating them in its national human rights plan and establishing a committee to coordinate and monitor their implementation.

3. The wide-ranging legislative and institutional measures on a myriad of issues including the creation of a Ministry of Human Rights, **establishment of the court of Human Rights**, the High Commission for human rights and Human rights committees in the Council of Representatives and in local governments amply reflect Iraq's commitment to uphold human rights. We **recommend** that Iraq ensures that the High Commission for human rights functions in accordance with the Paris Principles.

4. We appreciate the report's candid acknowledgement of the challenges Iraq faces in paragraph 63. Despite these challenges, Iraq has made commendable progress in reducing infant and maternal mortality, increasing the rate of child immunization and is encouraged by its 90% success rate in treatment of tuberculosis. We **recommend** that Iraq continue its efforts to expand the coverage of and access to basic health services.

5. We take positive note of Iraq's efforts to safeguard women's rights. The adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women (in 2013), the Act on combating domestic violence (in 2011) and ensuing establishment of four courts to handle cases of domestic violence are steps in the right direction. We **recommend** that Iraq continue to take measures for advancement of women and consider adopting a national policy for the empowerment of women.

6. We wish Iraq the very best in its endeavour to promote and protect the rights of its citizens.

I thank you, Mr. President.