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**Indian Council of South America
International Council for Human Rights*
Indigenous Peoples and Nations Coalition***

Thursday 18 March, 2009
Item 6, UPR Report United Arab Emirates
Ambassador Ronald Barnes

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Our Organizations warmly congratulates and welcomes the United Arab Emirates for the first National Report and its contributions for the 3rd session of the Universal Periodic Review in December of 2008 and for working together with Government agencies, national institutions and civil society leading to this final Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

We commend you for enacting Federal Law 51 in 2006 and for the Cabinet order establishing the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking to give teeth to the law at every level of national government. At the international level your contributions of \$15 million to support the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking and for sponsoring trafficking conferences in Vienna and New York in 2008 are also commendable.

We call for continuing your efforts to advance women in all levels of Government; this indicates the important role of women in your society. We also urge you to continue to protect foreign workers and to continue to provide human rights training in combating terrorism.

The United Arab Emirates is also marking positive steps forward by committing itself to acceding to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to establishing a national human rights commission in line with the Paris Principles to enhance its cooperation with the Human Rights Council.

It is important to continue to include civil society, journalist and other sectors in your follow-up of this UPR process as you have already done in the preparation. In this regard I would strongly urge the United Arab Emirates to continue to explore the framework to ratify other important human rights instruments to assist in the further advancement of the promotion and protection of human rights.

I thank you Mr. Chair.

* These Organizations are accredited to the 2001 WCAR and are currently participating in the Durban Review Conference preparations.