



**General Statement by India at the 17th Session of the Working Group
on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme
of Action [16 – 20 December 2019] under Agenda Item 4 delivered by
Ms. Mini Devi Kumam, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India
(16 December 2019)**

Mr. Chair,

My delegation would like to join other delegates in congratulating you on your election as Chairperson of the 17th session of the Inter-governmental Working Group on the effective implementation of DDPA.

2. Racism and racial discrimination are the most pervasive acts that lead to serious violation of human rights. This needs to be addressed in order to ensure equality and guarantee of individuals from all discriminatory practices. We recognise the importance of international and regional efforts in combating racism and racial discrimination. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) is a notable achievement in this regard, aimed at developing international standards to strengthen and update international instruments against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all its aspects. The DDPA explicitly calls upon States to design, implement and enforce effective measures to eliminate this phenomenon.

3. We also believe that changing of social attitudes is important. There is a need for continued focus on the important role of education and information. The power of education needs to be harnessed to instil the right values in young minds that are vulnerable to racist influences. We should encourage the mass media to promote ideas of tolerance and understanding amongst peoples. We welcome an in-depth discussion on measures to be taken to enhance the effectiveness of the follow-up mechanisms to the DDPA and to ensure better synergy and complementarities in the work of the UN and the Regional Human Rights mechanisms, in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

4. India would continue participation in the 17th Session of the Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the DDPA for an in-dept recommendations.

I thank you Mr. Chair.
