

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN, GENEVA

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

20TH SESSION (18th June to 6 July 2012)

AGENDA ITEM 3: Annual Full-Day discussion on women's human rights

(25 June 2012)

Statement by India

Madam President,

India welcomes the convening of the Annual Full Day Discussion on Women's Human Rights during the 20th Session of the Human Rights Council, which is reflective of its commitment to honour its Resolution 17/11, reaffirming the need for a comprehensive approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women. India is confident that the full-day meeting will contribute to ensure the fulfilment of the commitments made at the Beijing World Conference on Women.

2. Subsequent to passage of the National Commission for Women Act by the Indian Parliament, the National Commission for Women was set up in 1992 to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women, recommend remedial legislative measures and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women. It looks into complaints and take *suo motu* notice of matters relating to deprivation of women's rights thus facilitating redressal of grievances.

3. Violence against women has been addressed through law, policy and support services. Various legislations to address specific problems have been enacted are constantly reviewed to meet the exigencies of the situations. The central and state governments review the situation through regular five year plans. Progressive

elimination of violence against women constitutes one of the key objectives of the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW).

4. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 seeks to prevent violence at domestic front and provides for remedial measures to women who are victims of domestic violence. It provides immediate and emergency relief to women facing domestic violence in the form of protection order, right to residence, temporary custody order, monetary reliefs and compensation for emotional distress resulting from violence.

5. In conclusion, Madam President, violence against women is a concern of lifetime for women, from womb to old age. Government of India promotes, supports and implements legislations, policies and programmes to counter different challenges women face throughout their life. While Eleventh Five Year Plan focused on ending discrimination through activities and schemes/programmes, a shift towards lifecycle and capability approach has been considered in Twelfth Five Year Plan especially for girl child.

Thank you Madam President.