

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN, GENEVA
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
21ST SESSION (10-28 SEPTEMBER,2012)

Agenda Item 2: General Debate on Update with the High Commissioner

Statement by India

Madam President,

We thank the High Commissioner, Ms. Navanetham Pillay, for her overview of major human rights developments, missions undertaken by her office to various countries and initiatives advanced by her office in recent months.

2. Our delegation would like to align itself with the NAM statement. We take positive note of the High Commissioner's continued focus on migration, racism and discrimination, religious intolerance, gender equality rights of older persons and are encouraged by attention drawn to the protection and fulfilment of economic, social and cultural rights particularly in the context of pervasive economic and financial crisis.

Madam President,

3. We appreciate the initiative taken by the High Commissioner on the issue of the human rights Treaty Body strengthening process and welcome the ongoing consultations among Member States in New York. These intergovernmental consultations in New York should now be the focal point in this process.

4. We fully share the High Commissioner's view that the financial status of OHCHR is a critical concern and support her call for provision for adequate resources to the OHCHR to ensure the independence of the office. It remains a matter of concern that only one third of OHCHR funding is from the regular budget whereas two-third of the funding comes from voluntary contributions. We would also emphasize the importance of regular sharing of greater information in the management and

allocation of resources. This will lead to more objective and transparent functioning of the OHCHR.

5. We note the efforts of the High Commissioner in ensuring an equitable geographical representation in staffing of the OHCHR. We are encouraged that the proportion of staff from developed countries has come down from 64% in 2006 to 47% in 2011. However, it still remains skewed in favour of developed countries.

6. We note the efforts of the High Commissioner to reflect on the priorities of the work of the Council for 2013. We hope that further consultations will be held with Member States, as it is essential for a transparent and efficient use of limited resources.

7. We remain committed to making the HRC a strong, effective and efficient body capable of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in a transparent, cooperative and objective manner. Before conclusion, Madam President, may I once again express our deep appreciation to you, for your untiring efforts and contribution.

Thank you, Madam President.
