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**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN, GENEVA**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**13<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (1-26 Mar 2010)**

**AGENDA ITEM 2: Interactive Dialogue on High Commissioner's Annual  
Report**

**(4<sup>th</sup> Mar 2010)**

**Statement by India**

Mr. President,

We thank the High Commissioner, Ms Navanethem Pillay, for her Annual Report that provides a broad and useful overview of the activities undertaken in 2009 by the OHCHR to implement its mandate. The Report provides information about OHCHR's support for the work by the Human Rights Council, including the UPR and Special Procedures; the work of OHCHR on various thematic issues, including economic, social and cultural rights; the field presences of OHCHR in various parts of the world; and the High Commissioner's *Strategic Management Plan* for the biennium 2010-2011.

Mr President,

2. We would like to make four observations with regard to the Annual Report:
  - a) One, we appreciate the Report's acknowledgement that food and economic and financial crises were among the most serious human rights challenges in 2009. However, we would have preferred to see greater attention to these challenges in the Report, commensurate with their scale. Further, it would have been desirable to *also* mention the impact of the economic and financial crises on the developing world, particularly on the more vulnerable among them such as the least developed countries, in paragraph 29 that, instead, only singles out job losses in the developed world for a special mention;
  - b) Two, while we value and remain supportive of the importance of the Special Procedures that constitute a key mechanism of the Council, it bears reiteration that they continue to strive to produce work of a high quality that builds upon the work of their predecessors, is not repetitive and addresses the core of their

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mandate, as distinct from issues peripheral to it. In so far as the issue of their independence and integrity is concerned, we must regard it as a given;

- c) Three, we thank the High Commissioner for her initiative to brief the Council on the thematic priorities for the biennium 2010-11 prior to the publication of the latest *Strategic Management Plan*. We are aware that the oversight of OHCHR remains with the UN General Assembly and its mechanisms, and that pending a General Assembly resolution asking for the views of the Council in the preparation of *Strategic Framework* and associated budget requirements, the document would remain a text that is, for the most part, *not* the product of any inter-governmental negotiations. There is, in our view, however, a case for enhancing consultations with the Council, at least on the thematic component of the document, during its preparation stage, as also for periodic consultations on its implementation;
- d) Four, while we note that the High Commissioner has, as required by the Council resolution 10/5, submitted a separate report to the Council on the composition of the staff of OHCHR, we would urge her to update the Council on this issue, in future, through her Annual Report as well. We would be making a separate statement on this issue under the relevant agenda item later.

3. Mr President, we echo the High Commissioner's views on the need to make the human rights treaty body system more rational, coherent, coordinated and effective, and look forward to discussing proposals that might be initiated on this issue. Lastly, on the issue of gender equality and women's rights, the Report mentions stepping up of efforts by OHCHR in view of the forthcoming review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action. We would request the High Commissioner to provide more detailed information about OHCHR's plans in this regard. Thank you.