

AS DELIVERED

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA, GENEVA

TENTH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

MARCH 2-27, 2009

RESOLUTION ON

COMBATING DEFAMATION OF RELIGIONS

STATEMENT IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE BY INDIA

Mr. President,

India remains firmly opposed to attempts aimed at negative stereotyping or defamation of any religion. We would, however, reiterate our reservations on the draft resolution under consideration. In our view, the draft resolution inappropriately seeks to address the issue from a narrow perspective while linking it to racism, and improperly singles out one religion as its focus.

2. We believe that not only do all religions face several of the problems mentioned in the resolution, to varying degrees, but also that this issue is best addressed under the rubric of either religious intolerance or the abuse of the freedom of expression. Mr President, while we are sympathetic to the concerns raised in the resolution, we would, therefore, abstain on the vote on this resolution, owing to the manner in which this matter has been dealt with in the resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.