

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN, GENEVA

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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

**AGENDA ITEM 3 : General Debate
(26 June 2012)**

Statement by India

Madam President,

India attaches great importance to the work of the Human Rights Council which is the premier organ of the United Nations dealing with human rights. The strength of the Council lies in its adherence to the principles of objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation.

2. The delicate balance in the Institution-Building package must be preserved, even as we continue to provide collective guidance to the Council as it undertakes a very sensitive and complex mandate. The package, based on an inclusive approach, respects diversity in historical national experiences, cultures and development. There are areas requiring serious reflection to fine-tune the processes and modalities agreed for the functioning of the Council and its various subsidiary bodies.

3. Human rights should be universal and applied uniformly and impartially. The enthusiastic participation by Member States in the Universal Periodic Review process which is universal and non-selective

underscores the success of this innovative mechanism, providing a platform for sharing of national experiences and best practices. Cultural specificities should be taken into account.

4. We need to ensure inclusiveness and emphasize on dialogue and cooperation while human rights situations are addressed. Our approach to human rights should be cooperational and voluntary rather than confrontational and coercive. The Council must be guided by prudence rather than strategic expediency.

5. Technical assistance needs of developing countries in capacity-building should be kept in mind as States need to be equipped effectively to fulfill their duty of protecting and promoting human rights.

6. States should be at the forefront of the work of the Council and must be the main drivers of the human rights agenda especially in standard settings. We appreciate the contribution of civil society to the work of the Council.

7. We reiterate our firm commitment to continue to engage constructively with all Member States, and strive to make the Council more effective, responsive and efficient. We believe that we can advance our common cause only through dialogue and interaction.

Thank you, Madam President.
