

**Permanent Mission of India**

**Geneva**

**23rd session of the Human Rights Council**

**(27 May-14 June 2013)**

**Agenda Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children and Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights**

**(28 May, 2013)**

**Statement by India**

Mr. President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, **Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo** and Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights **Ms. Magdalena Sepulveda** for their respective reports.

2. The report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children presents a thematic analysis of the rights-based approach in measures to discourage demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and which leads to human trafficking. It is important that the international community address the scourge of trafficking in persons in a more holistic and comprehensive manner so as to ensure that human trafficking policies are integrated, balanced, coherent, result-oriented and people centric. Our commitment to address the problem of trafficking in persons is well reflected in various national legislations and policies, including our obligation under regional and international mechanisms which India is party to.

Mr. President,

3. Over last year, the Special Rapporteur has held various consultations at Ankara, Santiago, Brussels, Vienna and Rabat. We would like to know whether there were any discussions on sharing of best practices and capacity-building and how does the Special Rapporteur plan to incorporate that aspect in her mandate.

4. I would, now, focus on the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. We concur with the observation that it is neither possible nor desirable to formulate a universal set of guidelines as there is a specific socio-cultural context and set of power dynamics. While acknowledging the role played by civil societies and inclusive participation in decision making, we would like to point out that since the state is pivotal to establishing an inclusive social contract and strengthening participatory politics, it is both imprudent and unrealistic to reduce or bypass its role in managing poverty eradication, economic development and change. We would request the Special Rapporteur to shed some light on how could the State strengthen skills and capacity of public officials for sustainable participatory mechanisms to influence national priorities, programmes and decisions.

Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*