

Universal Periodic Review of India 2012

(24th May 2012)

**CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE LEADER OF THE INDIAN
DELEGATION H.E. SHRI GOOLAM E. VAHANVATI**

As we reach the end of this session, I stand before you as a representative of a new India – an India built on the solid foundations laid after independence, a new India, which is confident but not over-confident, a country proud of its strengths and at the same time willing to acknowledge and address weaknesses, an India which is self-assured but not arrogant, a country which is sensitive and humane without being weak or apologetic, and an India determined to promote and protect the human rights of its people in its secular democratic polity.

2. In the same spirit of openness and transparency which pervaded the preparation of our National report, we have tried to answer all your questions in an open and focused manner. Whenever we have problems, we have acknowledged them and have faced them squarely, never denying their existence.

3. India is an ancient country with strong social traditions. Some of these traditions may now be out of tune with modern

values. They have to change but in a democracy, this can only be done in all inclusive manner, involving all, through persuasion, education and development. We are conscious of the need for change and are promoting it through legislation as well as by raising social awareness.

4. I wish to thank all member states for their comments and recommendations. We are encouraged by the words of appreciation and support. We have also taken note of the critical comments. I assure you that we will reflect carefully on all of them. I hope that our exchange has been mutually rewarding. We do not believe that we have all the answers but we do believe that we are on the right path. I would like to assure this august body that India will continue to strengthen its engagement with the Human Rights Council and its members.

Jai Hind.
