

Universal Periodic Review of India

Concluding Remarks by H.E. Mr. Swashpawan Singh,
Ambassador/PR of India

Mr. President,

As we come to the end of a very rich and thought provoking discussion, I wish to thank everybody for their presence and constructive participation in this free and frank dialogue. In particular, my delegation was touched by warm expressions of friendship and goodwill for India by many participants. We reciprocate these sentiments. I would also like to thank those who may not be present here but have participated in the process through their contributions to the preparation of our national report or by parallel submissions.

2. We have tremendously benefited from our discussion here today. It was our endeavour to respond to as many comments and questions as possible within the time available. The discussion provided us with a unique opportunity to know how our efforts for the realization of human rights for our own people are viewed and assessed by the international community. We note with a great degree of satisfaction that there is a clear and positive recognition of our efforts. It is also satisfying to note that many initiatives launched by India are viewed as examples of best

practices. The participants also showed a good understanding of the challenges and constraints that India faces in ensuring development and security for its people while fully respecting democratic norms and values.

3. Implementation in a country as vast, populous and diverse as India is always a challenging task and we remain deeply conscious of this fact. We have persevered diligently and will continue to do so. Ours is a work in progress. We remain open to suggestions and advice. In this regard, we have carefully noted the observations and suggestions made by participants during the course of our discussion and will give them serious consideration with an open mind. However, this will have to be done within the parameters set out for us by our Constitution and which has served us well for over six decades.

4. India has always demonstrated its openness towards accepting evolving international human rights norms and remains committed to continue doing so. We are among the first countries to have ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. India was also among the first signatories to the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and is considering its ratification. There are also instances where we have consistently adhered to the basic

norms of an international instrument without becoming a party to it. The 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees is a case in point. In some other cases, our domestic norms go beyond the prevalent international norms and here I can draw your attention to the high level of justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in India. Our commitment to abide by human rights norms has been enshrined in our Constitution and there can be no question of any departure from these values and norms.

5. A few words, before I conclude, about the UPR process. We attach great importance to this mechanism which has been designed to enable the Human Rights Council to review country situations in a positive manner. Our discussions so far this week and our own experience of being reviewed today reconfirm our belief in the huge potential of this mechanism. Yet this is just a part of the process and the success of the mechanism would depend to a large extent on constructive engagement by identifying concrete areas for cooperation which would make a real difference on the ground. My delegation will extend its full support in this endeavour.

6. I thank you Mr. President.

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