

**Permanent Mission of India to the UN, Geneva**  
**19<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**  
**(27 February – 23 March 2012)**

**Annual full day Meeting on the Rights to Child**  
**(8 March, 2012)**

**Statement by India**

Madam President,

The delegation of India welcomes the convening of an annual full-day meeting on the Rights of the child on the important theme of Children and the administration of Justice, which we believe shall provide an opportunity to discuss the situation faced by children in conflict or contact with the law, reaffirm existing commitments, identify key challenges and recommend a way forward.

Madam President,

2. As a country with a large number of children, India is committed to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child; an objective which has been enshrined in the fundamental rights and the directive principles of State policy in the Constitution of India.

3. In compliance of the Constitutional guarantee for protecting children as well as recognizing international concern for rights of child, relevant domestic legislations and policies have been formulated to safeguard the Rights of child.

In this regard, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 as amended in 2006, is the principal legislation for the protection of children in conflict with the Law, which provides for a **special approach** towards the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency and provides a framework for the protection, treatment and rehabilitation of children in the purview of the juvenile justice system. It aims to providing for proper care, protection and treatment by catering to their development needs, and by adopting a child-friendly approach in the adjudication and disposition of matters in the best interest of children and for their ultimate rehabilitation through various institutions. In this regard, Juvenile Justice Boards have been established, consisting of two social workers and a Judicial Magistrate in every district or group of the districts of the country to deal exclusively with the criminal cases of juveniles, in an attempt to bring change in the nature of the inquiry and the administration of juvenile justice. The desired purpose of the separate court is the socio-legal rehabilitation and reformation of the juvenile, not punishment.

4. Under the umbrella programme of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) for children in difficult circumstances, a sub scheme "Integrated Programme for Juvenile Justice" was put in place with an aim to provide care to children in difficult circumstances and children in conflict with the law through Government institutions and in partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations. Under the programme, measures have been taken for the establishment of a National Advisory Board on Juvenile Justice, creation of a Juvenile Justice Fund, training, orientation and sensitization of the Judiciary, administration, police and NGOs responsible for implementation of Juvenile Justice Act. Non-institutional services such as sponsorship, foster care, probation as an alternate to institutional care and financial assistance have been expanded to bring about a qualitative improvement in the existing infrastructure.

5. Further, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been set up in 2007, which is one of the few commissions of its kind in Asia. The Commission has been mandated to ensure that all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanism are in consonance with child rights perspectives enshrined in the Constitution and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

6. In conclusion, Madam President, we look forward to gaining from the discussions held at this meeting, in particular the sharing of best practices. We reiterate our commitment for protecting and promoting the rights of children; and shall continue to strive for strengthening child right protection in India.

Thank You Madam President.