

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA, GENEVA

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

16<sup>th</sup> SESSION (28 Feb-25 March 2011)

AGENDA ITEM 2: General Debate on HC/SG Thematic Reports  
(03 March 2011)

Statement by India

Mr. President,

We would like to confine our remarks to the High Commissioner's report A/HRC/16/35 on the composition of the staff of OHCHR.

02. We thank the High Commissioner, Ms. Navanethem Pillay, for her Report on the composition of the staff of OHCHR that follows from the Council resolution 13/1. We appreciate the efforts of the High Commissioner to improve geographical diversity in OHCHR and are encouraged to note that this issue remains one of the High Commissioner's priorities. We also take positive note of the success achieved to improve gender balance in the OHCHR composition.

03. Nevertheless, Mr. President, we would like to *reiterate* the following concerns that we had mentioned last year:

a) One, we remain deeply concerned that even seven years after Recommendation 8 of the JIU report 2003/6, the OHCHR still does not have any specific targets and deadlines to reduce the imbalance in geographical distribution of staff. We would, therefore, request the High Commissioner to share information

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about her plans to formulate specific targets and deadlines on this question:

b) Two, in absence of any specific targets and deadlines to reduce the imbalance in geographical distribution of staff, we remain unconvinced about the sustainability of the limited progress that the High Commissioner has been able to achieve over the last four years. For, the improvement seems to have been achieved as a result of the overall expansion of the OHCHR staff size - something that obviously would not continue to occur elastically and would be very slow:

c) Three, the Report, once again, omits to discuss the issue of the highly skewed trend in the recruitment of Associate Experts or Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) - an issue that had been examined in the last JIU report. We would, therefore, request the High Commissioner, once again, to share information on how she plans to address this issue;

d) Four, in keeping with the spirit of Section VII of General Assembly resolution 63/250, and while awaiting the JIU report on the need to enhance the mobility of the OHCHR staff, we would request the High Commissioner to share her views on the matter:

Mr. President,

04. We note that the table on page 4 of the report - which shows an apparent improvement in OHCHR staffing composition - also includes data from Annex-II, despite the report's assertion in paragraph 2 that the data in Annex-II pertain to posts that are *not* subject to geographical distribution. We would, therefore, request a clarification in this regard.

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05. Finally, Mr. President, we would like to have information about the geographic composition for the final results of the last National Competitive Recruitment Examination in respect of OHCHR.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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