

**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN, GENEVA**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**20<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (18<sup>th</sup> June to 6 July 2012)**

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Universal Periodic Review**

**(General Debate)**

**(29 June 2012)**

**Statement by India**

Madam President,

India attaches great importance to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism which has been designed to enable the Human Rights Council to review country situations in a positive manner and seek to make a difference on the ground through cooperation and dialogue. We have recently gone through our second UPR and listened closely to all the interventions and thank all States that made contributions through their interventions and recommendations during our review. We will give all those recommendations due consideration and come back to the Council on the recommendations at the September Session.

Madam President,

2. A disturbing element after our review was the publication of “UPR Media Briefing Note” on India as well as on other countries reviewed during the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group of the UPR. This is a breach of General Assembly Resolution 60/251 which determines in paragraph 4(e) that the UPR must ensure “universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States”. In addition, the Institutional-Building (IB) Package of Resolution 5/1 clearly states

that the UPR Review must fully involve the country under review. The so-called “meeting highlights” unilaterally prepared by the Secretariat were selective and did not respect the inter-governmental nature of the UPR as determined in paragraph 3(d) of the IB Package. The summary of information in categories such as positive achievements, main issues and questions raised and “recommendations” over-simplifies the discussions held and undermines the non-selective and objective principles of the UPR and the draft Report of the Working Group. The UPR is a transparent process which is open to duly accredited non-governmental organizations, civil society and the media. In addition, there is a live webcast accessible to all those who are interested in the process and this selective exercise could have been dispensed with. We regret that till today the request of the Indian delegation addressed to the OHCHR has not received due consideration and the UPR Media Briefing Note on India still remains on its website. We reiterate our request for deletion of this Media Briefing Note on India and that its practice be discontinued.

Madam President,

3. Our approach to the Human Rights Council has been to preserve the inter-governmental character of the Human Rights mechanism, in particular, the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and recognizing the primacy of national efforts in the realization of human rights. We are keen to ensure that the UPR fosters international cooperation and constructive dialogue among countries.

4. In this respect, we believe that States need to reflect carefully on the recommendations that they present so as to help the situation on ground. Recommendations must, therefore, be practical, implementable and keep the country specificities in mind. We must guard against the overwhelming number of recommendations undermining the success of this UPR process as countries

grapple with many recommendations received within a span of four years. Recommendations are of various nature where some are implementable in the short-term while others would take much longer and the results of implementation may not be visible within four years. This could result in undue pressure on States particularly small developing States to implement recommendations without adequate resources and capacity.

5. India remains committed to constructively engage in and effectively contribute in making a difference to the Human Rights situations the world over including through the UPR mechanism.

Thank you, Madam President.

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