

**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
GENEVA
22ND SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHT COUNCIL
STATEMENT BY INDIA's PR IN THE
GENERAL SEGMENT - 28 February 2013**

President,

Let me begin by complimenting you on your sagacious stewardship of the proceedings of the Council. We also commend the members of the Bureau for the effective discharge of their responsibilities. My delegation acknowledges the contribution of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to promoting and protecting human rights around the world.

2. India has played an active role in the human rights machinery of the United Nations. This is an extension of our commitment to human rights in our own country. The fundamental rights guaranteed by our Constitution embody our ethos of tolerance, respect and understanding of the rights of our fellow citizens and all human beings. Our judiciary, media, civil society, the national and state human rights commissions and various other institutions are vigilant guardians of the rights of our people.

President,

3. This Council was established in 2006 with the aim of improving international cooperation in promoting the protection of and encouraging respect for human rights. It has served as a valuable forum for interactive dialogue among member-states and oversight of the human rights situation across the world. The strength of the Council lies in its adherence to the principles of objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation. In its deliberations, our endeavour must be to promote its objectives through sharing of best practices, exchanges among those responsible for protecting human rights, dissemination of information and technical cooperation in capacity building.

4. In this context, I would like to make special mention of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism. We believe that this member-state driven process of peer review, enriched by contributions from the civil society, has been successful because it is voluntary, collaborative and constructive. These are the guiding principles of the work of this Council and the assurance of its continued success.

President,

5. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The OHCHR has the responsibility to demonstrate that it is independent and impartial by being open, fair, transparent and accountable to all stakeholders. It is important to maintain the representative character and financial independence of this office. This Council should avoid overburdening the OHCHR in these difficult times of budget cuts. At the same time, the OHCHR must continue to service the Council and keep it informed of the human rights situation prevailing in the world in an objective and non-selective manner.

6. Before concluding, President, I take this opportunity to assure you of India's continued active and constructive participation in the Council with a view to enhancing its performance and to extend to you our full cooperation and support.
