

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN  
GENEVA

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

18<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (12-30 September 2011)

AGENDA ITEM 9: Interactive Dialogue with the Special  
Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination,  
xenophobia and related intolerance

(27 September 2011)

Statement by India

Madam President,

We thank the Special Rapporteurs for their reports but would like to restrict our remarks to the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

02. In his latest report, the Special Rapportuer has outlined some of the good practices developed by States and other stakeholders to counter this abhorrent practice. The founding fathers of India built in adequate safeguards in our Constitution and the Indian Penal Code against racism and racial discrimination, enshrining the basic value of equality. While Article 14 of the Constitution of India clearly states that the principle of equality cannot be denied, Article 15 expressly prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race. These two articles reflect the fundamental principles and values that are an integral part of the fabric that binds together a diverse country like India.

Madam President,

03. The UN General Assembly commemorated the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) in New York last week. It is indeed regrettable that the challenge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance continues to persist even today. Racial inequalities are widely prevalent in socio-economic indicators and patterns. As the Special Rapporteur has pointed out, vulnerable groups of individuals, members of minorities, Roma and Sinti, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, continue to be the main victims of violence and attacks perpetrated or incited by extremist political parties, movements and groups, who also often regard themselves as the only legitimate holders and guardians of the national identity of a given country. Political violence induced by these is on the rise in various parts of the world and has become more brutal and vicious. This has been accentuated by lack of effective social integration and the re-emergence of xenophobia.

Madam President,

04. We have to create greater political will and momentum internationally to develop more effective measures to enhance the implementation of the Durban Programme of Action. International campaign will bear fruits only when, we, in our own countries promulgate stringent national laws, strictly implement them and most importantly, ensure that attitudes of people are changed. Perhaps the most definitive guarantee against racial prejudice, discrimination and xenophobia is development and nurturing of multi-cultural, democratic and pluralistic traditions with the inculcation of values of tolerance and respect for diversity; and implementation of appropriate educational and legislative strategies.

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