

**Intervention by India at the 46th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group (29 April-10 May 2024): 4th UPR of Vanuatu, delivered by**

**Mr. Gaurav Kumar Thakur, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India,**

**Geneva, 2 May 2024**

Mr. Vice President,

India welcomes the distinguished delegation of Vanuatu for presentation of its national report.

2. We take note of the consultations being undertaken by the Government towards establishing an independent Human Rights Institution and steps taken towards drafting a National Human Rights Policy. We also appreciate the establishment of the office of Ombudsman to enquire into any misconduct or suspected discriminatory practice by a government agency. We acknowledge Vanuatu’s efforts in promoting gender equality, and encourage further steps to empower women economically, socially and politically.

3. In the spirit of constructive engagement, we recommend to Vanuatu the following:

One, establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.

Two, encourage effective implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy.

And, three, promote cultural preservation and respect for traditional practices.

4. We wish the delegation of Vanuatu all success.

Thank you Mr. Vice President.