

**Statement by India at the 37th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group Meeting (18 – 29 January, 2021): 3rd UPR of Austria – Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Mr. Pawankumar Badhe, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva 22nd January, 2021**

Madam President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Austria and thanks the delegation for their comprehensive presentation.

2. In the spirit of constructive cooperation, India makes the following recommendations to Austria:

1. Ensure that the Austrian Ombudsman Board is independent and in full accordance with the Paris principles on national human rights institutions.
2. Take further steps to promote equal opportunities for Roma community in education and employment.
3. Continue to ensure adequate and independent legal assistance to asylum seekers.

3. We wish the delegation of Austria all success in its review.

Thank you, Madam President.

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