

**Statement by India at the 37th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group Meeting (18 – 29 January, 2021): 3rd UPR of Sao Tome and Principe – Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Mr. Pawankumar Badhe, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva 27th January, 2021**

Madam President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Sao Tome and Principe and thanks the delegation for their comprehensive presentation.

2. As an island nation, Sao Tome and Principe is vulnerable to effects of climate change and the resultant sea-level rise poses greater challenge to the country. In this regard, we laud the measures being taken on mitigating climate change and adaptation plans.

3.  In the constructive spirit of cooperation, India makes the following recommendations to Sao Tome and Principe:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
2. Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.
3. Increase its involvement on environmental issues and take adequate measures to mitigate effects of climate change.

4. India acknowledges the challenges and constraints faced by Sao Tome and Principe and remains committed to cooperation in its development and wishes it the best.

Thank you, Madam President.

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