

**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 38th Session (03-14 May 2021) : 3rd UPR of Somalia - Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Mr. S. Senthil Kumar, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India [Geneva, 06 May 2021]**

**Madam President,**

 India welcomes the delegation of Somalia and thanks the delegation for its presentation. We appreciate the efforts of the Government in preparing an informative National Report and for its willingness to engage constructively in the UPR process.

2. We take positive note of health strategies of Somalia as a road map for universal health care, and national guidelines on the integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses and midwifery.

3. We assure the Government of Somalia of our unreserved support in their objective of improving the human rights situation and, in the spirit of cooperation, the following recommendations to Somalia are offered:

1. Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles.
2. Take necessary measures to ratify CEDAW and Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CAC).
3. Launch awareness-raising campaigns to eliminate sexual violence against women.

4. We wish the delegation of Somalia all success in its endeavours.

Thank you, **Madam President.**