

**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 39th Session (01-12 November 2021) : 3rd UPR of Antigua and Barbuda - Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Ms. Seema Pujani, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of India [Geneva, 08 November 2021]**

**Madam President**,

We warmly welcome the presentation by the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda.

2. We commend Antigua and Barbuda for the many initiatives outlined in its National Report to promote and protect human rights since the last review in 2016 despite the devastating impact of Hurricane Irma and subsequently, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. We welcome its ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. We also note with appreciation the enactment of the Disabilities and Equal Opportunities Act and the National Social Protection Act as well as the adoption of the National Child Protection Policy.

3. In the spirit of constructive cooperation, India recommends the following to Antigua and Barbuda:

1. Consider establishing a National Human Rights Institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles; and
2. Continue with further measures for promoting gender equality and combatting gender-based discrimination.

4. We wish the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda all the success in its review.

**Thank you, Madam President.**

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