

**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 40th Session (24 January – 04 February 2022) : 3rd UPR of Syria - Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Ms. Seema Pujani, First Secretary,**

**Permanent Mission of India [Geneva, 24 January 2022]**

**Mr. President**,

We warmly welcome the presentation by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. We take note of the initiatives taken by the Syrian Arab Republic to promote and protect human rights since the last review in 2016, as outlined in its National Report, despite the devastating impact of the ongoing conflict, terrorism and the COVID-19 pandemic. We welcome the enactment of the Children’s Rights Act of 2021 and the implementation of a range of programme interventions for social empowerment.

3. In the spirit of constructive cooperation, India recommends the following to the Syrian Arab Republic:

1. Consider expediting the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles;
2. Continue with policy and legislative measures for promoting gender equality and combatting gender-based discrimination;
3. Consider further measures to ensure access to education for all children.

4. We wish the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic all the success in its review.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**