

**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 40th Session (24 January – 04 February 2022) : 3rd UPR of Iceland - Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Mr. S. Senthil Kumar, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India [Geneva, 25 January 2022]**

Mr. President,

India extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Iceland and thanks them for the informative presentation on the action taken to implement the recommendations received during its second UPR.

2. We note with appreciation that Iceland has taken necessary steps to achieve significant progress in protecting and promoting human rights through various measures outlined in the National Report. We commend the effective response of the Government of Iceland to address the COVID-19 pandemic situation and especially appreciate the support extended to the vulnerable groups for their access to essential health services.

3. We also commend the efforts towards action taken on gender equality and combating gender-based violence, including the Action Plans and the national legislation, in 2021.

4. In the spirit of constructive cooperation, India recommends the following to Iceland:

1. consider establishing an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris principles.
2. continue to take measures to ensure adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities.
3. work towards a more inclusive educational system especially with regard to allocation of resources for all children.

5. Finally, we wish Iceland all success in its future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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