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**Statement by India during the Interactive Dialogue in the 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Gabon in the 42nd Session of the UPR Working Group**

**(23 January-3 February 2023) delivered by Ambassador Priyanka Chauhan, Deputy Permanent Representative of India, Geneva, 24 January 2023**

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Gabon and thanks them for comprehensive presentation.

2. As a fellow member of the Council, we note with appreciation that Gabon has achieved significant progress in protecting and promoting human rights through various measures outlined in its National Report.

3. India welcomes Gabon becoming party to the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol and commend its efforts to address the issue of irregular migrants in the context of trafficking in persons. We also commend Gabon for bringing out the National Health Development Plan (2017-2021) to ensure equal access to care for communities.

4. In a constructive spirit, India recommends the following to Gabon:

* 1. Allocate sufficient resources and training for authorities on anti-trafficking measures in order to help the victims and prosecute the perpetrators.
  2. Enhance measures to prevent and eliminate child labour, including involvement of children in hazardous work.
  3. Take steps and allocate additional resources for ensuring quality education to children, in particular, for girls and children with disabilities.

5. We wish Gabon all success in its review.

Thank you, Mr President.