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**Statement by India during the Interactive Dialogue in the 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Zambia in the 42nd Session of the UPR Working Group (23 January-3 February 2023) delivered by Ms. Seema Pujani, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva, 30 January 2023**

**Mr. Vice President**,

We warmly welcome the presentation by delegation of Zambia.

2. We commend Zambia’s efforts to promote and protect human rights since the last review in 2017 despite the severe socio-economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic. We note with appreciation enactment of the Children’s Code Act, launch of the Eight National Development Plan and establishment of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up.

3. In the spirit of constructive dialogue, India recommends the following steps to Zambia:

i. Redouble its efforts towards combatting gender-based violence and discrimination, including by criminalizing child marriage;

ii. Consider further measures aimed at ensuring access to quality education for all children; and,

iii. Continue with its initiatives for reducing maternal mortality and ensuring access to essential health services for all.

4. We wish the delegation of Zambia all the success in its UPR.

**I thank you.**