****

**Statement by India during the Interactive Dialogue in the 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Barbados during the 43rd Session of the UPR Working Group**

**(1-12 May 2023) Mr. S. Senthil Kumar, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva, May 2023on 5 May 2023**

Madam Vice-President,

 India thanks the delegation of Barbados for presentation of its National Report.

2. We note with appreciation that Barbados has achieved significant progress in protecting and promoting human rights through various measures outlined in its National Report.

3. We welcome the various initiatives of Barbados in response to COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate Barbados for its proactive measures to protect the human rights of persons with disabilities, including its accession to the Marrakesh Treaty and adoption of a comprehensive policy on persons with disabilities.

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

i. Consider further measures to ensure access to essential health services for all.

ii. Continue with policy and legislative measures for promoting gender equality and combatting gender-based violence.

iii. Undertake awareness raising programmes aimed at combating the stigmatization and prejudice against children with disabilities.

5. We wish the delegation of Barbados a successful UPR review.

Thank you, Madam Vice-President.