

**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 30th Session (7-18 May 2018) :  3rd UPR of the Republic of Azerbaijan  – Interactive Dialogue,  delivered by Ambassador Rajiv K. Chander, Permanent Representative of India. [Geneva, 15 May 2018]**

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Azerbaijan.

2. We welcome the Constitutional amendments and adoption of National Action Plan for Open Government by Azerbaijan. These steps indicate the commitment of Azerbaijan to reinforce transparency in governance and prevention of corruption, which are significant steps to achieve the desired goals in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

3. We appreciate Azerbaijan for taking several measures to improve health care facilities. Steps taken for the betterment of medical services and initiation of awareness raising programmes about reproductive health among young people are noteworthy. We ***recommend*** Azerbaijan that increase easy access to health care services; ensure adequate budget for health expenditure; improve health care infrastructure; and promote skills of health service providers.

4. We welcome the efforts of Azerbaijan to ensure gender parity in secondary and tertiary education of women and girls. We ***recommend*** comprehensive implementation of the existing national legislation prohibiting gender discrimination.

5. We wish the delegation of Azerbaijan all success.

I, thank you Mr. President.