

**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 30th Session (7-18 May 2018) : 3rd UPR of the Republic of Cuba – Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Dr. A. Sudhakara Reddy, Counsellor (Legal). [Geneva, 16 May 2018]**

Mr. President,

India welcomes the delegation of Cuba.

2. We appreciate Cuba for making substantial progress in the promotion and protection of human rights of all its people despite of many obstacles to its development.

3. We welcome several initiatives of Cuba to fight against all forms of racial discrimination. The awareness raising programmes in mass media, academic curriculum in educational system, emphasis on instilling anti-racist values are a few among other measures which are noteworthy.

4. We recognise the continued efforts of Cuba in safeguarding the rights of women in all spheres of economic, political and social development to bring in gender parity.

5. We ***recommend*** the following:

1. Strengthen the application of existing legal framework that prohibit and punish discrimination that affects human dignity and values;
2. Promote the necessity of eliminating politicization and contextualisation of human rights issues at various fora;
3. Continue to foster good relations with different religious institutions.

6. We wish the delegation of Cuba all success.

I, thank you Mr. President.