

**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 31st Session (5-16 November 2018) : 3rd UPR of Republic of Congo – Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Dr. A. Sudhakara Reddy, Counsellor[Geneva, 14 November 2018]**

**Mr. President,**

India thanks the delegation of the Republic of Congo for the presentation of its National Report.

2.       We appreciate Congo for its initiative towards introducing the universal health coverage, particularly in securing universal access to emergency health care. This in fact resulted in positive outcome showing a steady decline in maternal mortality and infant mortality ratio. We, however, **recommend** improving health care facilities and follow-up treatment for infected mothers and infants to reduce the number of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis cases.

3.       Right to education to all children and their equal access to instruction and training in any school without any discrimination guaranteed by Congolese State is noteworthy. However, we encourage Congo to integrate the minimum age of 14 years for employment with compulsory education which would ensure combating child labour effectively.

4.         We wish the delegation of the Republic of Congo all success.

I, Thank you Mr. President.