

**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 32nd Session (21 January – 01 February 2019) : 3rd UPR of Slovakia - Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Ms. Mini Kumam, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India [Geneva, 28 January 2019]**

**Statement by India**

Mr. Vice President,

 India thanks the delegation of Slovakia for presentation of its national report.

2. India takes positive note of measures taken by Slovakia towards prevention of all forms of discrimination, protection of the rights of minorities and ethnic groups, combating human trafficking and promoting rights of persons with disabilities.

3. India notes incidents of continued racial discrimination against different minorities particularly Roma communities. India expresses its concern that Roma community continues to suffer widespread unemployment, forced evictions without adequate alternative housing solutions and residential segregation. Effective measures are also required to prevent malnutrition, segregation in schools, low enrolment rate and high dropout rate of Roma children.

4. India recommends the following to Slovakia:

a) Eliminate all forms of discriminatory practices against Roma people

b) Ensure effective mechanisms towards access to healthcare, education, adequate housing and environment aimed at promoting social inclusion of Roma people

b) Ensure equal rights for Roma children and their protection from all forms of discrimination

c) Ensure equal rights for persons with disabilities

5. We wish Slovakia every success in its future endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.