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**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 33rd Session (06-17 May 2019) : 3rd UPR of Nicaragua - Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Dr. A. Sudhakara Reddy, Counsellor (Legal), [Geneva, 15 May 2019]**

Ma’am Vice President,

India thanks the delegation of Nicaragua for successful presentation of its national report.

2. It is encouraging that free and child-friendly education continues to be a priority for Nicaragua. We welcome the initiatives taken to train preschool, primary, secondary and special education teachers to deal with students having hearing, visual, intellectual and physical health impairments.

3. India appreciates Nicaragua for introducing social solidarity programmes to increase enrolment and retention of students in primary and secondary schools in less-developed areas. We **recommend** Nicaragua to enhance the quality of teaching and ensure non-discriminatory access to education in rural areas.

4. We encourage Nicaragua to continue its efforts to guarantee the right to health through the family and community health-care model based on Primary Health-care Strategy. In this regard, India**recommends**Nicaragua to ensure non-discriminatory access to universal health care and free health services.

5. India takes note of the efforts of Nicaragua towards incorporating a gender perspective into its policies, programmes and legislation guaranteeing the active participation of women in decision-making. We **recommend** Nicaragua to fully implement its national legislation to prevent violence against women and to eradicate gender discrimination

6. We wish the delegation of Nicaragua all success in its UPR.

I, thank you Ma’am Vice President.